

U.N. seeks to revive Gulf talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N.'s special envoy for the Gulf will hold preparatory talks with representatives of Iraq and Iran Wednesday and Thursday in Geneva, a U.N. spokesman said Monday. The envoy, Ambassador Jan Eliasson of Sweden, will hold what the spokesman called "meetings of a technical nature" to lay the groundwork for talks between the two countries. Perez de Cuellar will have with the foreign ministers of the two countries in early September, the spokesman added. Although a ceasefire went into force in the Iran-Iraq war on Aug. 20, 1988, several meetings between the secretary general and the two foreign ministers have failed to make progress in transforming it into a full-fledged peace settlement. Iran has been insisting on the withdrawal of remaining Iraqi troops from pockets of Iranian territory while Iraq wants priority given to clearing the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the Gulf.

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Walesa assails Communists

GDANSK (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa accused Poland's Communist Party Monday of blackmail by threatening to refuse to cooperate with the union over the formation of a government. "Poland needs reforms. Only work on the concrete shape of these reforms gives credibility to the political forces active in our country. No one will achieve that through a policy of threats and blackmail," Walesa said in a statement. Walesa said he was appealing to the Communists to drop their threat to refuse to share responsibility for Poland's political future if they were not given a significant role in a Solidarity-led government. Earlier, he told reporters: "If the party does not draw proper conclusions, and so far it has not, then it will have no chance whatsoever in the future. It should stop rocking the boat and start doing its job." The Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee made the threat in a resolution passed Saturday, the same day that President Wojciech Jaruzelski asked Solidarity newspaper editor Tadeusz Mazowiecki to form a government. (Strikes plague Poland, page 8)

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King meets Pakistani chief of staff

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Monday received Pakistani Chief of Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg, who is currently paying a visit to Jordan. Present at the meeting were Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, the Pakistani ambassador in Amman, and members of a delegation accompanying Beg. Also Monday, the King visited the Fourth Mechanized Royal Division where he was briefed

on the various activities and training exercises of the division. Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday accompanied General Beg on a visit to the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The guest expressed admiration at the standard JUST attained. The Pakistani official also visited the Fourth and the 12th Royal Mechanized Divisions and was briefed on their duties.

Qasem reaffirms Jordan's commitment to Palestinians

Arafat reopens PNF office in Amman

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Monday reopened the offices of the Palestine National Fund (PNF) amidst the cheering of hundreds of jubilant people, marking the return to the Jordanian capital of a key Palestinian institution after a three-year closure.

In a short speech which he delivered at the opening ceremony, Arafat thanked His Majesty King Hussein for allowing the PNF to reopen its Amman offices. "This event is a tangible evidence of the strategic relations between Jordan and Palestine, and of the support that Jordan, through the leadership of His Majesty, extends to the Palestinian people," he said.

Addressing the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the State of Palestine, vowed continued support for the 21-month uprising against Israeli occupation.

"I declare to the people of the intifada that we are with you and will proceed together until the Palestinian flag flutters over Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine," Arafat told the cheering crowd.

Later in the day, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Marwan Al Qasem and PLO Executive Committee member

Mahmoud Abbas co-chaired a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to Support the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People living in the occupied territories. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the discussions dealt with the living conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and means to ease their suffering.

Qasem reaffirmed Jordan's support for the efforts of the PLO on the international level aiming at securing the national legitimate rights through participation in the peace process, Petra said. He also underlined the successes achieved by the PLO since Jordan's decision last year to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, the agency added.

Qasem also renewed Jordan's commitment to offer all forms of support to the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their rights, Petra said.

The Jordanian side to the meeting included Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mo'tasem Bilheisi and acting head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs Osama Tabboub. The Palestinian side included PLO Executive Committee members Abdul Razak Al Yahya, Mohamad Milihem, Abdul Rahim Ahmad and Abdullah Hourani.

The reopening of the PNF office in Amman was one of the highlights of Arafat's current visit to Jordan. The PLO chairman was received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker shortly after his arrival here from Baghdad Sunday.

Monday's PNF opening ceremony, which coincided with the 21st anniversary of an arson attempt at Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem, came amid PLO moves to help the Jordanian economy. A Palestinian source quoted by the Associated Press last week said that Arafat had ordered the Palestinians living in the occupied territories to shun the Israeli shekel and use the Jordanian dinar in all their dealings in a bid to boost the Kingdom's currency.

In addition, the functioning of the PNF in Amman is also expected to be a contribution to Jordan's efforts at addressing its economic situation, according to analysts.

PNF Director Jaweed Al Ghusseini, also a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told reporters at Monday's ceremony that the 1989 budget of the fund, the central body that controls all PLO finances, totalled \$274 million.

"The fund would reflect positively on the economic cooperation between Jordan and the PLO, although the PLO's budget constitutes a small part of the Jordanian economy," he said.

Palestinian officials quoted by different news agencies also voiced hope that the moving of

the PNF back to Amman would reflect positively on the Jordanian economy.

According to a Palestinian source quoted by the AP, Arafat, during his meeting with the King Sunday, had requested Jordan to abolish a restriction imposed last year on the issuance of Jordanian passports to Palestinians living in the occupied territories. The restriction, which followed Jordan's severance of formal links with the West Bank, limited the validity of the passport to two years while the regular duration is five years. There was no immediate official government comment on the request.

Arafat chaired a closed meeting Monday with the PLO Executive Committee members to discuss the structural organization of the PNF and how it would function to channel funds to the Palestinians living in the occupied land, informed sources said.

The PLO chairman also met with members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) living in Amman. No immediate details were available on the talks, but it was expected that the PLO chairman would brief them on the outcome of a general congress the mainstream PLO faction Fatah held in Tunis earlier this month.

Meanwhile, a close advisor to Arafat was quoted as saying that the PLO would be willing to negotiate economic ties with Israel once the Zionist state agreed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. "All matters are negotiable after

the right of the Palestinians to set up a state is approved," Bassam Abu Sharif was quoted as saying by Kuwait's Al Anba newspaper. "For example... the Palestinians want a passageway between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," said Abu Sharif.

"We have 200,000 Palestinians now working in Israel. Does any sane person believe Israel will give up these workers so easily?" Abu Sharif said moves to set up a Palestinian state, proclaimed last year by the PNC, were in the final stage.

"But the final stage is often among the hardest," he added. Abu Sharif said he foresaw steps before the end of the year to prepare for the holding of a Middle East peace conference, but that the conference would not be held this year or next.

He added that Japan had invited Arafat to go to Tokyo, but gave no date for the visit. In the occupied territories, a Palestinian activist who discussed an Israeli plan for Palestinian elections with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday any future talks must be through the PLO.

West Bank lawyer Jamil Tarifi confirmed last month that he had met Shamir.

Asked if he would meet Shamir again, Tarifi, 42, told Reuters: "No, I did not have anything to talk with him about and I think if he really want to talk about the peace, he knows very well the address. He can go to the PLO and talk with them."

Aoun offers talks amid reports of French plan

BEIRUT (AP) — Army commander Michel Aoun offered Monday to hold talks on ending Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war. "I am ready any time to discuss Lebanon's future at a round table with leaders of the other side," Aoun said in an interview published by the Paris-based Arabic magazine Koll Al-Arab. His press office confirmed it was accurate.

Aoun made no mention of his previous condition that negotiations on political reforms could not be held until Syria pulled its 40,000 troops out of Lebanon.

Walid Junblat's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) rejected the offer, saying it was a "trick to allow Aoun a breathing spell to rearm and re-marshal his forces." A PSP statement said Aoun would never be accepted as a negotiator and asserted that a Muslim-Christian dialogue "can begin only after the butcher is overthrown and brought to trial for his crimes."

The statement also condemned the arrival of French warships off Lebanon, accusing President Francois Mitterrand's government with seeking "to kindle a new crusaders' war in Lebanon."

Aoun's offer was broadcast by all Beirut radio stations as his 20,000 troops exchanged sporadic artillery and tank fire with the Syrians and their allies across the city's dividing green line and in the hills above the capital.

No casualties were reported. By police count, 784 people have been killed and 2,126 wounded since the confrontation erupted March 8.

A slackening in hostilities since the U.N. Security Council called for a ceasefire last Wednesday

brought the city back to life for a few hours.

Many stores were open and traffic jammed the city's main commercial districts of Hamra and Corniche-Mazraa. The money market reopened and banks were operating for the first time in 10 days.

But by early afternoon (1100 GMT), shutters were slammed down lowered and long convoys of cars were heading back to the safety of South Lebanon.

Barely 200,000 out of Beirut's 1.5 million population are still living in the city. Most of the remainder fled during heavy bombardments of residential districts earlier this month.

Police said gunners in west Beirut and in north Lebanon pounded the coast around the port of Byblos with 100 shells and rockets overnight to turn back three ships.

Shops reopened and motorists and pedestrians crowded the streets of both east and west Beirut after a weekend lull in fighting.

French proposal

France has proposed a security plan as a first step in a political campaign to end the war in Lebanon, political sources said Monday.

They told Reuters the plan stipulates the withdrawal of Syrian troops and Lebanese armed groups from Beirut, outlying towns and villages 20 kilometres away from the capital.

The proposal suggests brigades of the divided Lebanese army deploy in Beirut and its surroundings, which include a coastal stretch to the south, villages in the southeast and towns in the

north and northeast.

The sources said the boundaries of the area in question were still blurry.

The proposal was made by French envoy Alain Decaux who visited Lebanon for 24 hours last week to hold discussions with the warring factions.

Decaux proposed that representatives of Aoun, and allied militias and other groups ranged against them meet at a venue to be decided later to discuss their differences.

The sources said the French security plan proposes that observers, whose nationality was not specified, be positioned around the army-held area, at national institutions like the central bank and at ports of entry.

The observers would also deploy along the green line battle zone and in strategic hills around Beirut.

The sources did not say if Paris' plan was discussed with Damascus which has some 33,000 troops in Lebanon.

Meanwhile the spiritual leader of pro-Iranian militants warned Monday that French intervention in Lebanon's war would be disastrous.

"To intervene with one Lebanese party against another will lead to disastrous results," said Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadallah, spiritual mentor of the Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah group.

"France is trying to give moral support to a Lebanese party," Fadallah told Visnews television news agency, referring to Aoun.

A French aircraft carrier, a frigate and a hospital ship sailed Saturday for the Lebanese coast to join three navy ships already there.

Rafsanjani names his deputy

NICOSIA (AP) — After ousting some heavyweight hardliners opposed to his policies from his proposed cabinet, Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday appointed a French-trained, former justice minister as his vice president.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said that Rafsanjani appointed the 52-year-old Hassan Habibi as his first vice-president. Habibi is among a handful of Western-oriented officials hand-picked by Rafsanjani to help rebuild the country's sluggish economy.

Rafsanjani Monday also appointed a former deputy prime minister, Ataollah Mohajerani, vice-president for judicial and parliamentary affairs.

Rafsanjani, who won a landslide victory in presidential elections last month, is believed to want to moderate the revolutionary fervor kept at a high pitch by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Sudan peace moves make little progress

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Peace talks between Sudan's new military government and Sudanese rebels broke off after an acrimonious two days with the two sides agreeing only on the need for further talks, a rebel source said Monday.

"It means a continuation of the war," said the rebel, a member of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) delegation to the talks. "Unless they change their policies, I don't think we can work together."

The talks, which began Saturday night and ended Sunday evening, were the first between the SPLA and Sudan's new government of general Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who seized power in a coup June 30.

In a brief statement after the meeting broke up, the delegations described the talks as "frank and serious" and said the two parties had agreed to meet again at an as yet undetermined date.

Sudan's new leader took control of the huge, impoverished country saying one of his first priorities was to find a peaceful

solution to the civil war.

However, the rebel source said the talks resulted in a stalemate with the government side refusing to consider any of the rebels' standing demands — a lifting of the state of emergency, abrogation of military pacts with Egypt and Libya and the suspension of Sudan's Islamic penal code.

The rebels also refused to consider the government's requests, which included a ceasefire and halting its negative propaganda. "We discussed the issues one-by-one," said the SPLA source. "There was no common ground."

He said the government, which has declared a unilateral ceasefire that lasts through August, asked the rebels to agree to a jointly declared ceasefire, but the SPLA refused.

"Without any common ground, it was irrelevant," said the rebel source. "One of their arguments was that a ceasefire was needed for the corridors of relief. We said there already are corridors and we don't need a ceasefire."

Israelis posing as tourists kill boy in Bethlehem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said Monday he has filed a complaint with the Israeli occupation authorities over the alleged killing of a Palestinian in the pilgrimage centre by Israeli officers disguised as tourists.

Freij said in a telephone interview that "this is a very serious incident, and I think the (occupation power) is required to give an explanation."

The action, he said, could have a chilling effect on tourism in the Holy Land, which already has been badly affected by the 20-month uprising.

"As Arabs, we welcome tourists," Freij said. "It is our national duty to provide them with the best services. But when elements with guns try to disguise themselves as tourists and kill people, it could create suspicion among the Arab community over who is a genuine tourist."

An army spokeswoman declined comment on the allegation that Israeli forces posed as tourists.

Meanwhile, both the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were shut down by a general strike called to protest an arson attempt on the Al Aqsa Mosque two decades ago.

Shops and schools were closed, and public and private transportation stopped, according to Arab reports.

The mosque, Islam's third holiest site, was set ablaze on Aug. 21, 1969, by an Australian who was judged insane and deported to Australia. Experts have spent years restoring the shrine, and the work is still incomplete.

Clashes erupted Monday between soldiers and stone-throwing Palestinians in the Tulkarem refugee camp, and three children

suffered gunshot wounds, hospital officials said.

There were conflicting reports on the incident Saturday in Bethlehem's central market, near the Church of the Nativity that marks the traditional location of Jesus' birth.

An officer in the army spokesman's office said soldiers opened fire Saturday after they were attacked with stones and that four Palestinians were wounded.

The officer said the army was unable to locate any body or to confirm reports that a Palestinian had died.

Freij said Bethlehem residents who witnessed the incident said two men and two women, wearing backpacks and carrying cameras, opened fire on demonstrators in the market, killing Radi Mahmoud Salah, 18.

Doctors in Bethlehem confirmed that Salah was fatally shot in the chest.

Freij noted Israeli forces have disguised themselves in the past, in some cases by putting press signs on their cars, but that this was the first incident in which they pretended to be tourists.

Israeli military sources said on Monday a Palestinian-American teenager found dead in the West Bank had been shot at close range. The army denied it was responsible.

The army and police exhumed the body of Amjad Hussein Jibreel, 14, after relatives said he was shot in the heart, his head was smashed and his body had cigarette burns.

Palestinians blamed Israel for the death of Jibreel, whose body was found by an Arab shepherd in the rocky hills outside the town on Ramallah Friday.

The military sources said the Israeli autopsy showed that Jib-

reen had been shot at close range, apparently by a pistol, but there were no signs of torture.

The army said it had appointed an investigating officer who debriefed soldiers, reconstructed events and studied the autopsy report.

Officials of the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem asked Israel to provide a report on Jibreel's death but said they had still not seen the findings of the army-ordered autopsy.

Jibreel's family petitioned Israel's supreme court Monday calling on Israel to release the autopsy report and allow an independent autopsy before re-burying the body.

Relatives said a Scottish doctor, Derrick Pounder, was to arrive later Monday to conduct an autopsy at a hospital.

Appeal to Hague court

Eight Palestinians expelled by Israel for their alleged role in the uprising in the occupied territories said Monday they planned to appeal to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

"We will complain to the International Court of Justice about Israel's decision to expel us from our homes. This is an illegal measure by the occupation forces," said Radwan Ziyadeh.

"For us expulsion was more harmful than killing. We want to go back even if we are sent to jail," he told Reuters.

Ziyadeh, a member of a banned trade union in the West Bank, said he and the seven others would tour West European countries to rally support for their cause.

The eight, expelled to Lebanon in June, are among 55 Palestinians expelled by Israel since the uprising began in 1987.



THE body of Radi Mahmoud Hassan Salah is taken from a coffin and lowered into a grave in West Bank.

Protest strikes staged in two Azerbaijani cities

MOSCOW (R) — Protest strikes have broken out in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku and in Sumgait, flash-point of last year's bloody ethnic fighting between Azeris and Armenians, the official Azerbaijani news agency said Monday.

A spokesman for the Azerinform agency said a number of light industrial enterprises were on strike but oil production and transport were working without interruption.

A member of the unofficial Azerbaijani Popular Front, which called the two-day warning strike, said from Baku that some 60 factories had shut down, includ-

ing two defence plants. He said it was too early to tell whether workers in the city's oil fields had joined the protest.

"The strike is under way in Baku and Sumgait but it is too early to know whether oil production workers have joined in," said Nazim Ragimov of the Popular Front.

The protesters are demanding greater political and economic autonomy and continued Azerbaijani control over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, home to a large Armenian population.

"A number of enterprises, mostly light industry, are on

strike," said the Azerinform spokesman. "At this time we don't have an exact count."

But Ragimov said preliminary figures from strike committee headquarters showed that roughly 100,000 workers at some 60 factories had downed tools.

These included two defence industry plants, the country's largest air conditioner factory and an equipment plant that supplies the oil fields of Baku and Tyumen in Siberia. Chemical factories in Sumgait were also on strike.

Baku and Sumgait were said to be calm with no reports of disorder. In February 1988, 32 people died in Sumgait in the worst-

known ethnic riots in Soviet history.

Monday's strike follows rising tension in the southern republic and a warning strike last Monday. A week of talks with local Communist Party officials failed to deter the Popular Front's call for a republic-wide general strike, planned for early September.

On Saturday, demonstrators flooded Baku's central Lenin Square calling on local leaders to meet the Popular Front's demands after talks between the two collapsed. It was the fifth big protest in recent weeks.

The movement demands an end to Moscow's direct control

over Nagorno-Karabakh, imposed last year after ethnic clashes between Azerbaijan and the neighbouring republic of Armenia, and the lifting of a curfew and military presence in Baku and other Azerbaijani cities.

The Popular Front is also seeking legal recognition, freedom for those they consider to be political prisoners and recall of the republic's deputies to the Supreme Soviet, who they say have failed to represent the area's interests.

At least 100 people have died in Azerbaijan and Armenia in the past 18 months in conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Egypt arrests suspected saboteurs

CAIRO (R) — Police have rounded up a group of Muslim militants suspected of plotting a coup in Egypt and sabotaging foreign interests, attorney-general Gamal Shoman said Sunday.

He said police arrested 41 people and were hunting 16 others suspected of plotting to topple President Hosni Mubarak and to attack the interests in Egypt of Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Shoman told a news conference that most of the suspects were trained in sabotage in Syria, Iran, Cyprus and India over the past two years.

They planned to launch an Iranian-style revolution in Egypt with the intention of toppling the existing government, he said.

"Investigations that the prosecution carried out show that the organisation aimed at spreading Shiite thought with extremist leanings and aimed at carrying out aggressive actions against some American, Israeli, Saudi Arabian, Iraqi and Kuwaiti interests in Egypt like their embassies and airlines," the statement said.

He said the 57-member group was founded in 1986 by a Saudi Arabian identified as Mohammad

Hassan Ramadan who lives in Damascus.

Shoman said the group comprised 52 Egyptians, four Saudis and one Iranian. The 41 detained Aug. 2 were Egyptians, mainly university professors, doctors or students.

Investigations were continuing and no formal charges had yet been made, he said.

One of the Egyptians, identified as Sayed Fahmi Shenawi, codenamed Abu Iman, went to Iran to join the medical team which treated the late Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhol-

lah Khomeini, Shoman said.

"Investigations showed that Abu Iman visited Egypt often... to assign members to military and cultural training abroad aimed at creating unrest in Egypt and at preparing them to carry out an Islamic revolution similar to the Iranian revolution," the statement said.

It did not mention whether the alleged Shiite organisation had actually attempted any violent acts, but said explosives, hand grenades and other arms were found in possession of the defendants.

Turkey to close border with Bulgaria

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is to seal off its border with Bulgaria early Tuesday to stop the flood of ethnic Turkish refugees, state-run Turkish Radio said Monday.

"The border will be closed at 2 a.m. on Aug. 22 (2300 GMT Tuesday), the radio quoted Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister Ali Bozer as saying after a three-hour cabinet meeting which ended early Monday.

More than 300,000 ethnic Turks have entered Turkey from

Bulgaria since May to escape what they describe as Sofia's campaign of religious and cultural assimilation of its ethnic minority.

Bozer said the Bulgarian government had been notified of the border closure through official channels.

"We invite Bulgaria once more to heed our goodwill and humanitarian call to negotiate a comprehensive emigration agreement," he said in a statement also

carried by Turkish television.

"We reiterate that Turkey is ready to accept all (ethnic Turks) who may wish to come, provided a comprehensive agreement is reached," he added.

Sofia has rejected Turkey's calls for a pact to safeguard the property rights of the refugees and the human rights of any of the estimated 1.5 million ethnic Turks who choose to stay in Bulgaria.

"The officials of the (Turkish)

border provinces have been advised of the decision," Bozer was quoted as saying.

The bulk of the refugees have been entering through the main border crossing of Kapikule in Edirne province and the smaller checkpoint of Derekoy in Kırklareli province.

Turkey last week stopped daily runs of a Bulgarian train ferrying the refugees on the grounds that their belongings were not being shipped simultaneously.



LIFE CONTINUES: A Lebanese child bends down to pick up his stuffed toy in front of his devastated bedroom in west Beirut.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

UNESCO: PLO application premature

MADRID (R) — UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor said in an interview published Sunday that Palestine's application for membership was premature and would not succeed. "I have told (Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser) Arafat that his petition is premature and would not be successful in the conference," he told the Spanish daily El Pais. The PLO's application is to be discussed at UNESCO's general conference in October. The PLO proclaimed an independent Palestine state last November and is seeking membership of several international organisations. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) has postponed a decision until the conference. The United States and most Western countries oppose PLO membership of U.N. agencies on the grounds that it is not a sovereign state under international law, although more than 70 countries recognise it. The United States, which left UNESCO in 1984 after accusing it of being corrupted by ideological interests, has said PLO membership would kill any chance of its return. Mayor said the U.S. return was crucial. "Instead of making more conditions for its return I would like (the United States) to reconsider its stance..." he said.

Israelis mourn end of 'Dynasty'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis mourned the end of "Dynasty" Sunday. State-run television took off the air the American serial which captivated viewers with its conspicuous consumption amid power struggles in boardroom and bedroom. Israel television, citing cutbacks in broadcasting hours and a desire to diversify programming, said it was screening Dynasty for the last time Sunday night after running the serial for more than three years. Newspapers reported that more than 1,000 Dynasty fans wrote to the Israel Broadcasting Authority urging it to continue the serial about jet-setting oil tycoons. A survey published in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said 78 per cent of Israeli viewers regularly watched the programme. The Jerusalem weekly Kol Ha'ir devoted a column on its front page to bemoan the waste of 30,625,000 viewer-hours — a calculation based on an average of 250,000 viewers multiplied by 147 fifty-minute episodes.

Iran urges action against Afghan drug dealers

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian anti-drug official called Sunday for a crackdown on Afghan traffickers, saying most smuggling rings active in Iran were Afghan-linked. "To date, no attention has been paid to this issue for various reasons but the time has come to launch a struggle against them," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mokhtar Kalantari as saying. About two million Afghan refugees live in Iran and have relatively easy access across poorly-tended borders to Pakistan and Afghanistan, origins of most of the drugs smuggled into Iran. "If we want to eradicate addiction we should concentrate on certain neighbouring countries... we would have less difficulties if narcotics were not produced in these countries," Kalantari said. Several Afghans have been among the 851 people executed in Iran this year on drug-trafficking charges.

Egyptair staff arrested in drug seizure

LAGOS (AP) — Police seized 61 kilograms of heroin and were questioning two employees of Egyptair in connection with the biggest drug seizure yet at Lagos' international airport, Nigerian newspapers reported. The newspapers said the two employees, both Nigerians, were identified as G. Adamu, whose first name was not available, and Nurudeen Lawal. The Lagos Concord said Adamu was Egyptair's Lagos airport manager and Lawal the air traffic clerk. The drugs were found in a box that was labelled as carrying umbrellas, and which arrived on a flight of UTA, the private French airline. The drugs reportedly had left India in April and travelled through Kuwait before arriving in Lagos. Lawal sought to clear the box through customs, the newspapers said. No other details were immediately available. Western drug enforcement agencies have identified Lagos as a major transit point for drug shipments from the Far East, and dozens of Nigerians have been arrested both in the United States and Europe. Nigeria is not to sign a joint drug enforcement treaty with the United States in September.

Begin to leave hospital soon

TEL AVIV (R) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, admitted to hospital for fatigue last week, is regaining strength and will be released within the next few days. The reclusive Begin, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978, entered Shaare Zedek medical centre near his house in occupied Jerusalem only days after celebrating his 76th birthday. Press officer Dvora Waysman told Reuters: "He is in very good health. The reason which caused him the weakness was a loss of sodium in his body. He looks as good as he did a few months ago, and he will be released within the next few days." Begin, prime minister from 1977 until his resignation in 1983, withdrew from public life without saying why. Some believe he was depressed over his wife Aliza's death or by Israeli casualties in Lebanon.

Irish relief worker expelled from Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has quietly expelled an Irish nurse working for the Dublin-based charity Concern, Western diplomatic sources said Monday. They said Brigid Quirk was served with an expulsion order last week and left Saturday. Another Concern worker, logistics officer Mark Cunningham, was informally asked by security authorities to leave the country, the sources added. Quirk served in the two of Af Muglad in south Kordofan province where Concern has for nearly two years been in charge of a camp housing about 15,000 south Sudanese war refugees. The diplomats did not know the reasons behind the government action which has not been reported in the Sudanese news media. Khartoum newspapers earlier this year accused Concern of helping rebel sympathisers hide arms near the Muglad camp. Khartoum-based Concern officials said the accusation was fabricated. The diplomats said Ireland's Cairo-based Ambassador Eamon O Tuathail visited Khartoum last week and tried to persuade the government to let the Concern workers stay. He returned to Cairo Saturday.

ROMANIA IN GREAT CELEBRATION YEAR



On 23 August 1989, the Romanian people celebrate 45 years since the victory of the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist revolution of social and national liberation. Throughout this period, fundamental changes have taken place. While in the liberation year, Romania appeared as a poorly developed country, with a modest industry and rudimentary agriculture, with about 80% of the population working in agriculture. Now it is an industrial-agrarian country with a developed industry, strong and modern, and a socialist agriculture boasting great accomplishments.

Romanian industry currently turns out a production 135 times bigger than 45 years ago, the farm output rose over 10 times, and the national income grew more than 40 times. Great attention has been paid to the balanced development of the basic branches of the economy, the emplacement of the industry in all regions of the country. Currently, action is taken for the implementation of the provisions of the eighth five-year period (1986-1990) which will ensure Romania's passage to a new development stage — that of medium-developed socialist country. With this as a basis, estimates for the next five-year period and until the year 2000 are that the strategic target of full completion of the multilaterally developed socialist society should be attained.

By the end of this millenium, Romania will become a powerful country, developed in all points of view, a country which will ensure dignified living and working conditions for its people.

Starting from the fact that modern Romania is with the people and for the people and that, to this end, a broad democratic framework should be provided to secure the active participation of all social categories, of the whole nation in decision-making, in their implementation and in the country's development.

In social-economic development, account has been taken of the general objective laws and facts and conditions in Romania. The principles of self-management, self-administration have been introduced in all sectors of activity. At a national level, new democratic bodies have been created such as, the Congress of working people in industry and other sectors, as well as the Congress of agriculture, which elect national councils with permanent activity in between congresses.

The Congress of Science and Education, the Congress of Culture are also national fora which also elect permanent managing bodies.

Today, in Romania, the state democratic bodies and the organism of worker democracy make a unitary whole, which ensures the broad participation of people in running the entire activity.

This provides for the people's direct participation in the country's democratic governing, in various forms, so as to meet the general interests of the entire nation, to continually raise its development level and the general standard of living.

Stones, tear-gas shots — normal day in Gaza

By Jack Redden
Reuter

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (R) — The temperature rises, Palestinian youths slip into alleys and the adversaries in the Palestinian uprising begin a daily duel that often ends in death.

It starts with a single stone thrown at an Israeli post on a rooftop overlooking the Gaza City market beside the intersection bearing the now emotional name of Palestine Square.

More stones follow, slamming into the walls and roof above the troops. Soon the soldiers are re-plying with teargas, bullets and rocks of their own.

This battle in the occupied Gaza Strip was Sunday. But a virtually identical one took place in the square the day before. Everyone expected another one Monday.

A teargas canister ripped through the windshield of a car passing through the square. A passenger, clutching his abdomen where the canister hit, was carried to the nearby hospital.

Drivers with horns blaring made a frantic effort to escape the square. Young men, often the same ones who throw the stones, jumped into the street to take charge of clearing the traffic. Teargas wafted across the neighbourhood.

As the streets emptied, the exchanges continued. Youths shouted taunts. A rock ricocheted past an Israeli soldier forcing him to jump and drawing cheers from young Palestinians. Stones were coming from three directions at the Israeli soldiers. But across the street, now littered with stones, Arab women continued to sell cheap clothes they

had displayed on the pavement. Another barrage and the stone-throwing ended abruptly as two Israeli army trucks screamed into the square.

Troops spread out in search of the "shabab," a word which literally means young men but is now synonymous with the resistance to the 22-year-old Israeli occupation.

"They never find them," commented a smiling Palestinian. Occasional shots echoed down the street as the troops edged along the fronts of buildings.

The youths had melted into the maze of houses. But the tension and anger that fuelled them remained.

Gaza City is dirty, congested and visibly poor. The fronts of shops are coated in tar sprayed by the Israeli authorities months ago to obscure graffiti supporting the Palestinian uprising.

A boy showed two spent cartridges from an Israeli M-16 automatic rifle he had just retrieved. "Look. Look what the Israelis do to us," an old man selling fruit on a street leading off the square shouted at a foreign journalist.

Traffic reappeared in another block. But steel shutters again clanged shut across shops and cars began to scatter in anticipation of fresh trouble.

"It happens every day, sometimes several times a day," said a taxi driver, who agreed to drive to the Israeli frontier 10 kilometres to the north.

At the Erez crossing point into Israel, a group of army information officers sat in an air-conditioned hut. One had just phoned army headquarters in Gaza City.

"All is normal today," she said.

Jordan Times
Telephone 667171/6

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE	PROGRAMME TWO
15:30 Koran	18:00 Los Enfant du Rock
15:40 Programme review	19:00 News in French
15:45 Children programmes	19:15 Donce France
17:05 Sea Hunt	19:30 News in Hebrew
18:05 News summary in Arabic	20:00 News in Arabic
18:05 Local programme	20:30 Arabic series
19:10 Agricultural programme	21:30 Programme review
19:45 Programme review	21:40 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic	22:00 News summary in Arabic
21:30 Arabic series	
21:40 Local programme	
22:00 News summary in Arabic	
23:00 News summary in Arabic	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:30 Fajr	
05:57 Sunrise/Duha	
12:36 Dhuh	
16:17 Asr	
19:18 Maghreb	
20:41 Isha	

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swefish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrassanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Ammon International Church Tel. 693326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811335
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer conditions will continue to prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas.

Amman	Min./max. temp.
Aqaba	18 / 31
Deserts	25 / 38
Jordan Valley	19 / 37
	23 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 39 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:	
Dr. Amjad Nawras	781806
Dr. Mufeed Tamoush	864480
Dr. Suleiman Al Khayyat	891880
Dr. Basim Al Qaddoumi	646024
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nelroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisun pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Amjad Obaidat	(—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy	(985238)

ZARQA:	
Dr. Mufeed Danara	(—)
Khalid pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	84402
Traffic Police	806390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615

Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	635140
Palestine, Shmeisun	664177/4
Shmeisun Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muasher	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775112/6
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/20
Amal Hospital	674153
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)985323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department of the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	Other Flights (Terminal 2)
05:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)	11:20 Kuwait (KU)
09:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)	12:20 Cairo (MS)
10:15 Aqaba (RJ)	15:00 Moscow (SU)
10:20 Jeddah (RJ)	15:40 Riyadh (SV)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)	16:55 Doha (AZ)
10:35 Dhahran (RJ)	20:00 Dubai (EK)
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)	
10:50 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)	
10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
11:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)	
11:25 Montreal, New York (RJ)	
11:35 Athens (RJ)	
11:45 Belgrade (RJ)	
11:50 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)	
12:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)	
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)	

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg	Upper/lower price in Jds per kg
Apple (golden)	570 / 500
Apple (red)	550 / 500
Apple (yellow)	600 / 530
Banana	400 / 330
Banana (Mikmanar)	350 / 330
Beans	400 / 300
Carrot	280 / 240
Cauliflower	130 / 100
Cauliflower	270 / 220
Corn	200 / 160
Cucumbers (large)	300 / 250
Cucumbers (small)	430 / 360
Eggplant	170 / 100
Fig (green)	300 / 250
Fig (blue)	100 / 300
Garlic	1000 / 800
Grapes	300 / 240
Grapes (red)	240 / 200
Grapes (yellow)	450 / 350
Lemon	280 / 230
Lemon (large)	250 / 200
Marrow (green)	450 / 380
Marrow (small)	450 / 400
Orange	450 / 400
Onion (dry)	230 / 180
Peas	180 / 140
Pepper (hot)	130 / 100
Pepper (sweet)	180 / 140
Potato	400 / 300
Swiss chard	280 / 100
Tomatoes	150 / 100
Water Melon	150 / 80

Jordan Times

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Depths of deceit

ALMOST anywhere else in the world, scepticism will be the first reaction that greets a report that soldiers dressed as tourists are stalking unarmed civilian protesters and in fact opening fire and killing people. But not so when it comes to Israelis and the occupied territories. We have seen enough and more of the depths that the occupation forces would delve into in their frantic quest for new means to quell the 21-month-old Palestinian intifada. For some time one of their favourite means was to send in soldiers posing as journalists. The ploy was soon discovered, indeed at a cost to journalism as a profession since the Israeli tactic posed real threats to genuine journalists.

In any event, Sunday's incident in Bethlehem is another sign of the growing frustration of the occupation forces who find "iron-fist" policies and deceit as the only means to put an end to the Palestinian national struggle. The issuance of identity cards to Palestinians living in the occupied Gaza Strip at great cost and effort in a bid to identify "security risks" is another. But what is the net result? An almost total boycott of jobs in Israel by the Gazans? Successive general strikes which deny Israeli industries and other sectors access to cheap Palestinian labour? Whatever else is the outcome, it is clear that Israel is definitely not finding any dilution of the determination of the Palestinians to gain their rights. If anything, the oppressive and despicable practices adopted by the occupation power will only further harden the stands of the victims and set back whatever chances are there for civilised, moderate negotiations to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement based on coexistence.

Meanwhile, in the short-term, things would get hotter for the Israelis in the occupied territories since it has been proven beyond doubt that deaths and injuries as well as arbitrary detentions have come to be accepted by the Palestinians as an occupational hazard and way of life in their quest to liberate the land. How long will it take the occupation power to realise it and wake up from the delusional slumber it has very conveniently drifted into?

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

PLO leader Yasser Arafat's talks in Amman are given wide coverage in the local Arabic press Monday. Al Ra'i daily in an editorial entitled "our common cause" said that for Jordan Palestine has always been the central issue and the focal point in the Kingdom's national strategy. The paper said that the talks between King Hussein and Arafat are focused on the Palestine issue, means of helping the Palestinian people under occupation and efforts in the international arena to find a lasting settlement to the Middle East question. The paper said that the Jordanian and the Palestinian people have always acted jointly in matters of national interest because they have one goal and the same destiny. The paper noted that the two leaders are also discussing means to end the bloodshed in Lebanon and helping the Arab League committee bring about a lasting settlement. It noted that Palestinian-Jordanian coordination of stands is of paramount importance and added that since joint efforts bore fruit in the past both sides should maintain the momentum and work together not only for a mutual prosperous relationship but also for the sake of serving the higher national interest.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the educational institutions in Jordan in general and the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education in particular to streamline the holidays for students at all levels. Salah Abdul Samad says that all Jordanian families have children who are students either at school or at university and community colleges but that they never taken their holidays simultaneously and can never plan any trip together. The writer says it is true that both get Friday as a weekend, but that is not enough for a holiday that would group all members of the family together. What should be done, the writer adds, is a synchronisation of holidays, the start and the end of each term at schools and universities so that the aspired objective can be fulfilled.

Sawt Al Shagh daily said that Arafat's meetings with King Hussein in Amman have a great significance, coming in the wake of their meetings in Baghdad with the Iraqi president and amidst fast developments in the Middle East region. The paper said that both leaders have direct links with the Palestine problem and both have made efforts on the Arab and the international levels to serve the Palestine cause. This is natural since the Jordanian and Palestinian people have had very strong relationship throughout history and since they both face the same common enemy and have the same destiny.

Israel seizes opportunities in East Africa

By Jane Hunter

ECONOMIC misery and the withdrawal of the Soviet Union from regional confrontations with the U.S. have opened new opportunities, both diplomatic and military, for Israel in East Africa. Already, through improved relations with Kenya and Ethiopia, Israel has begun to reclaim the strategic position in the region it enjoyed in the '60s and early '70s.

The ties with Kenya
Kenya's decision last December to restore formal relations with Israel is an indicator of Israel's progress. This country's compliance with the 1973 resolution of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), mandating a diplomatic embargo of Israel, never extended to the expulsion of Israeli advisors and businessmen. Indeed, trade has grown steadily to its current \$10m a year, and it has often been noted that Mossad, Israel's secret service, maintains a significant presence in the country. President Daniel arap Moi's internal security forces receive Israeli assistance.

Kenya's observance of the Nairobi airport as a refuelling stop for El Al's weekly flights between Johannesburg and Tel Aviv. Nevertheless, President Moi has fiercely resisted Israeli pressure to normalise relations. In 1987 he consented to receive Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, but only in the dead of night, ordering a car to bring Shamir from the airport terminal and return him before dawn.

What has changed to allow Moi to feel comfortable in raising the status of Israel's unofficial diplomatic representative to ambassador and allowing the Israeli flag to be flown in Nairobi? Even Kenya's once dynamic economy has been ravaged by the low commodity prices and high interest rates plaguing non-industrial countries. With the U.S. battling a huge deficit and low oil prices cutting into the budgets of

Arab states, foreign aid can no longer be counted on to fill the gaps.

Moreover, as President Moi became less sure of his people's support he cracked down on dissidents, incurring the wrath of human rights proponents in the U.S. Congress and endangering his American aid. For the past two years Israeli emissaries had been offering to intercede with Congress — if Moi renewed relations.

President Mobutu, the first African leader to reestablish relations with Israel (in 1982), had been complaining that Israeli intervention had not helped Zaire's cause. But apparently President Moi felt that slender hope was worth grasping. Kenya's national radio justified the restoration of relations by saying that the government "was satisfied that generally the future augured well for the Middle East, especially after the acceptance of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 by the Palestine Liberation Organisation".

Naturally, this did not set champagne corks popping in Israel, which had rejected the PLO's declarations. Although Israeli officials had long considered Kenya and Nigeria the primary objectives of their African diplomacy, their joy was muted. No one said that Kenya's move signified a breakthrough for Israel in its quest to regain the respect of African governments which it had enjoyed in the '60s and '70s.

Israel seems to have accepted that, even though it has now been accorded official recognition by seven of the African countries (in addition to Kenya, they are Zaire, Liberia, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and, as of January, Central African Republic) which severed ties in 1973, it cannot regain its status as mentor and benefactor — not until it reaches a settlement with the Palestinians and reduces its ties with South Africa. While Israel still claims to lead the field in the

provision of development assistance, its reputation in Africa is now based on the covert aid it extends and the assistance it gives insecure leaders in developing their personal security forces.

Aid to the SPLA?

Even before the renewal of formal ties with Kenya there were reports that Israel was using it as a launching pad for covert assistance to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Currently, Israel's aid to the SPLA is regarded as a fact by a number of experts on Africa. Less clear is whether or not that aid is coordinated with or blessed by Washington.

The aid probably started after the overthrow of Jaffar Numeiri, with whom Israel got along well enough to arrange for the transit of Ethiopian Jews and to operate a black market in plutonium it initiated during the '60s at Khartoum airport. According to a documentary aired in late 1987 by a British independent television company, this market, its stock in trade diverted from European reactors, continued after Numeiri was overthrown. Nonetheless, Israel did not like the fact that Numeiri's successor, the recently deposed Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi, was accepting economic and military aid from Libya.

Early in 1988, the Sudanese government began accusing Israel of aiding the SPLA. The government's news agency SUNA reported that an Israeli general, identified as Hayim Erez, had visited the SPLA in South Sudan to lecture SPLA officers and to discuss the delivery of \$8m worth of military equipment. In November Sudanese radio reported that two Mossad officers and three other Israeli officers had been killed while fighting with the rebels. In April, Sudan said three Mossad officers had been injured in the South when their car struck a mine.

That month Sudan also announced that it had obtained a letter, dated 24 February, from

the provincial administration and internal security division of the office of President Daniel arap Moi. The letter discussed the delivery of a quantity of Israeli machine guns, mortars, anti-tank guns, anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles to the SPLA through Kenya. Despite Sudan's citation of a reference number (OF/SEC/C/20/VOL-111/18/89), Kenya dismissed its protest, saying the document was a forgery.

At the end of May, Sudan struck back. Sudanese air traffic controllers refused to permit a plane carrying President Andre Kolingba of the Central African Republic to cross Sudanese territory on its way to Israel. Forced to return home, Kolingba promptly broke diplomatic relations with Sudan. (Israel Radio quoted "political sources" as saying that Sudan's action "displeased the claims that the Casablanca summit resolutions and Egypt's return to the Arab League will moderate Arab positions".)

No joy in Uganda

In 1987 a Ugandan newspaper said that Israel was supplying through Kenya weapons and uniforms to a rebel guerrilla group, the Uganda People's Front, under the leadership of Peter Oti, who had been minister of defence under former President Milton Obote. The paper said the military aid was arriving "with the help and blessing" of Kenya.

It is possible that Israel has since changed its tack. In March several reporters in the Israeli media claimed that Deputy Foreign Minister Binjamin Netanyahu met high Ugandan officials during a sentimental visit to Entebbe airport, where his brother Jonathan died leading a commando unit in 1976.

However, Uganda is the least likely nation in the region to welcome Israeli diplomats. President Yoweri Museveni has said that Uganda will not reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel

until it opens a dialogue with the PLO. He has compared Israel to South Africa, saying both governments "have displaced indigenous peoples". As a recipient of aid from Libya (among many other donors) Uganda is a prime candidate for Israeli subversion.

An opening in Ethiopia

Last year, when it told Ethiopia it would not renew its military assistance agreement, the Soviet Union urged the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam to improve its ties with the U.S. But Washington rebuffed Ethiopia's approaches — after months of waiting for its ambassador-designate to be approved, Addis Ababa recently withdrew his name — and that opened the way for Israel. Reports began to appear that Israel was lobbying Washington on Ethiopia's behalf, and that Israel was providing weapons and military training to Ethiopia.

It is now widely predicted that Ethiopia will renew diplomatic relations with Israel within the next year or so. Open discussion in the Israeli media of a newly launched agricultural aid programme for Ethiopia and the attendance of Ethiopian economists and agricultural experts at Israeli courses give credence to those predictions. In October the Ethiopian minister of agriculture visited Israel and Prime Minister Shamir acknowledged Israel had established contacts with the Ethiopian government.

Israel's friendship with Emperor Haile Selassie was legendary. Israeli military aid continued even after the 1973 diplomatic rupture and Selassie's overthrow in 1974. The links did not significantly weaken until 1985, when Operation Moses, the massive airlift of Ethiopian Jews, was exposed.

It was never these Jews, often referred to as Falashas, that sparked Israel's interest in

Ethiopia. In fact, a succession of Israeli governments refused to have anything to do with them. Finally Prime Minister Menachem Begin bowed to the aggressive lobbying of activists (among them some who were convinced that bringing the black Jews to Israel would help to counter the charge that Israel was a racist state) and got Ethiopia to consent to their emigration in exchange for weapons.

The Ethiopians still have not been accepted as full-fledged Jews by Israel's religious authorities and little money has been spent integrating them into Israeli society. Now, with reports that Ethiopia might permit the emigration of the estimated 15,000 Falashas who remained behind, among them some of the parents of the 1,000 children who arrived unaccompanied in Operation Moses.

However, it is Ethiopia's location that is attractive to Israel, and in particular its frontage on the Red Sea. Part of that strategic coastline is occupied by Eritrea, and Israel has always supported Ethiopia's effort to prevent its secession. This gives particular credence to reports that Israel has sold large quantities of arms and provided top flight military advisors to Ethiopia, which has suffered a string of recent defeats at the hands of Eritrean and Tigrean rebels.

If Ethiopia negotiates a settlement of these conflicts, which it is now under great pressure from its aid donors to do, Israel's position will be considerably weakened, as it will have only its influence on Washington to offer. Similarly, if Sudan's new government can bring off a settlement of the war in the South, Israel's range will be reduced. Even so, compared to its situation three short years ago, Israel would still have a great deal going for itself in East Africa — Middle East International, London.

Prepare for the lean years

By Hamish McRae

IT HAS been seven fat years. Since 1982 there has been one of the steadiest, fastest periods of expansion that the world economy has ever known.

We can see the results around us in Britain — and not just in the fact they are evidently having to ration champagne, look at the M25 and it is not hard to believe that nearly three-quarters of the households in the South East have one car and more than one fifth have at least two.

It is a boom in which not everyone has shared. Throughout the industrial world there are pockets, sometimes large pockets, of deprivation. A whole continent, Africa, will leave this decade with lower living standards on average than when it entered. For the centrally planned economies, such as the Soviet Union, it has been a decade of economic frustration, frustration now evident in political and social upheaval.

But for the rest of us, much of the 1980s has been a period of rising prosperity, more akin to the hopeful 1960s than the uncertain 1970s. There has been no comparable to the two oil shocks which damaged economic confidence, and cut severely into economic growth. One possible candidate, the share crash of October 1987, proved a short-lived terror, with share prices around the world now back to, or above, their pre-crash levels.

Indeed last year, against all predictions, proved a vintage year for the world economy, with growth of over 4 per cent. Yet it is impossible now not to feel a sense of unease, a sense that the good times have drawn to a close. In part that may just be a puntorial reaction to Britain's own excesses: the great spending spree of the last couple of years which helped drive our trade balance into a record deficit.

In part it may be a more practical reaction to the high interest rates employed here to curb the boom, for the shops are at last reporting a down-turn in sales.

But the nature of the end of the boom is not just a question for Brits. There is a particular British element to the boom, but we are a small part of the world economy, and our own performance will be determined largely by that of others. We have to make an adjustment to slower growth and lower inflation, but so do other countries.

If you look at the world economy there are perhaps three big problems, problems which it has learnt to live with, rather than solve. These are the imbalances caused by differing economic per-

formance, the rise in inflation, and the more general mismanagement of global resources.

A word about each, for the way we end this boom — whether in the economists' jargon we engineer a soft or a hard landing — will be determined by the way we cope with these unsolved problems.

Imbalances first: there are two that matter. One is the current account deficit that the United States has run since 1982, and the corresponding surpluses of Japan and Germany. The other is the imbalance between the developed world and the less-developed nations.

The first has to adjust sooner or later, for its effect would eventually be for Japan and Germany to own most of the assets of the U.S. Already Japanese companies own one-third of the office space in central Los Angeles. There is an obvious political limit to the extent to which you can allow any country's assets to be controlled from overseas. But there is also a financial limit: those LA office rents go back to

Japan, further weakening the U.S. current account.

So there is a time bomb here, but a time bomb with an uncertain fuse. Defusing is a long, slow and painful business requiring slower growth of consumption in the U.S. than in Germany and Japan. In exactly the same way we need to correct our own current account deficit, but ours is of much more recent origin and we are still net creditors abroad, while the U.S. is the world's largest debtor.

An adjustment in the imbalance between the developed and developing world's must also take place, particularly that part of the developing world which most concerns Western bankers, Latin America. You would hardly credit it, to read the reports of debt write-offs to Latin America, but for the last five years it has been transferring wealth towards the West; not the other way round. The flow of interest we have received from that region far exceeds the flow of new loans being made.

Now, one could say that the

fact that much of the debt has been written-off means that there is no longer such a serious problem. In purely financial terms that may be so. But the fact that the richest countries are now unwilling (however understandably) to provide significant development funds to a whole sub-continent, reduces the ability of that region to grow.

Thus the imbalance, and the mismanagement which has led to it, lingers a potentially vibrant region with austerity. That will remain a burden on the world economy as a whole, and indeed may become a greater burden as its insoluble nature becomes yet more evident.

Inflation is the second problem of the late 1980s. We thought we had it licked. The double digits of the early part of the decade seemed light years away. Industrialists had begun to plan, and invest, for an era of relatively stable prices. The virtue of low inflation was leading to its reward: low interest rates. We have lost that prize here in

the U.K., and are in danger of losing it elsewhere. Throughout the world both inflation and interest rates have been on the rise. Engineering a soft landing depends on the rest of the world not making the mistakes of the U.K.

The last thing anyone should want is some global version of the British housing market of the last 12 months. Fortunately, it is not that likely, but it remains a danger. The more likely outcome is two years of slow growth as inflation is squeezed from the system.

The third issue for the next chunk of world economic history will be the way the world economy responds to pressure on global resources.

The relationship between an expanding world economy and finite global resources has suddenly taken on an additional political dimension. We have started to worry, as though it were a new problem. But we do have some experience of the potential clash, for that took place in the oil market in the 1970s. OPEC, bless

it, taught us to conserve energy, though we hardly thanked it at the time, and have begun to forget its lessons.

We need, now, in a way, to reinvent a cartel like OPEC, but applied to the totality of the world's non-renewable resources, not just the oil market. It will be very difficult, for there is no obvious mechanism, which can stitch together the mass of national economic policies into a cohesive international approach.

We can bring in our "green tax" to be sure, but if others do not, we may put ourselves at a short-term competitive disadvantage. In any case, adjusting to more sustainable growth has costs, and those costs are one of the reasons why the early 1990s will see slower growth than the late 1980s.

So while we need not necessarily face the Biblical seven lean years, it would be naive not to expect now a change both of economic pace and of economic direction. Indeed we should welcome it — The Guardian.

Gandhi sees bigger world role for India

By Earleen Fisher
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Saturday that India must play a bigger role in world affairs as the superpowers shift from old polarisations to greater dialogue.

In an interview with the Associated Press and United News of India, Gandhi also said he feared a hasty withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping troops from Sri Lanka could lead to partition of the island between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority.

He said he expected his own national elections, due no later than Jan. 1, 1990, to be held "more or less on schedule." While he declined to be more specific, he appeared to indicate early elections were unlikely.

"I feel India must play a bigger role and will play a bigger role and the global equations are changing. People are coming out of their old mind sets," the Indian leader said. "That's where countries like India can play a much bigger role, like we have done in the Non-Aligned (Movement), like we have done in disarmament — really bringing the opposition poles together, getting nations to think more in terms of one world, not our bloc and their bloc."

Gandhi has maintained his country's warm ties with the Soviet Union that date to the

days of his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, and his mother and predecessor, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. But he also has broadened ties with the United States, especially in trade and technology.

He declined to link India's growing military strength to its role in world affairs, saying, "I don't put much significance in the military (aspect of India's power)."

India, which has 880 million people and is the world's most populous nation after China and its 1.2 billion people, has 1.4 million men under arms — the fourth largest military force in the world after the Soviet Union, China and the United States.

Last April, it successfully test-fired a medium-range ballistic missile, only the seventh nation in the world to do so. It called the launch a "technology demonstration" with no hostile purposes.

Gandhi said the withdrawal of the 40,000 Indian soldiers in Sri Lanka was still under discussion with the Colombo government, which has demanded a speedy pullout.

"What's worrying us is that if we come (back) without something else taking our place and things get out of control, it will lead to the division of Sri Lanka," he said.

India has asked Sri Lanka, whose armed forces barely total 40,000 men, how it proposes to

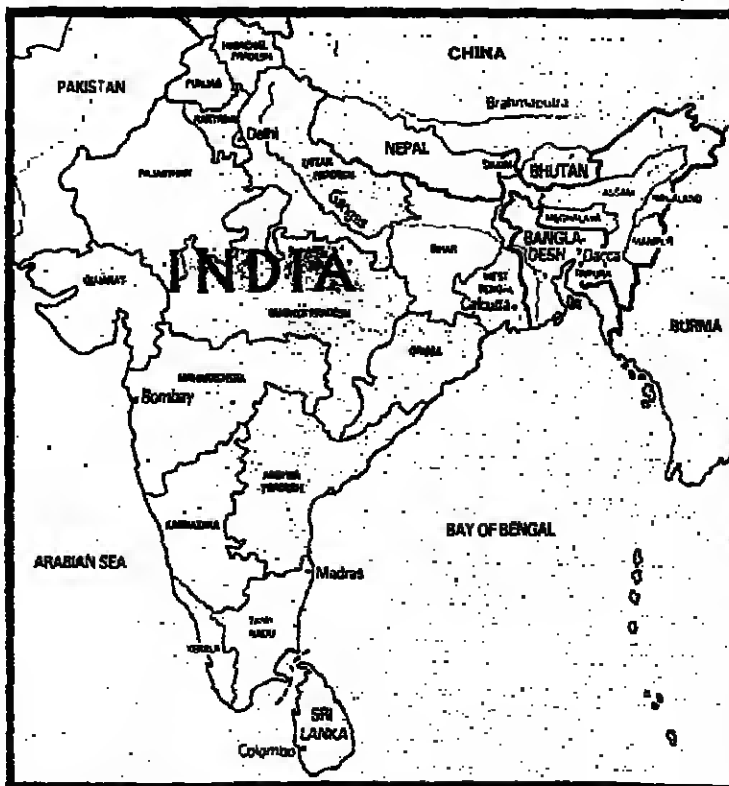
deal with security after an Indian withdrawal, he said.

"Just moving out and leaving a vacuum is not really a solution," Gandhi said.

India, prompted by the sympathies of its own Tamil minority for their brethren in Sri Lanka, sponsored a 1987 peace accord in an effort to end a separatist revolt in the north and east of the small Indian Ocean island.

But the largest Tamil rebel group rejected the plan and Indian soldiers sent to enforce it were soon bogged down in a guerrilla war against the same Tamil militants once supported by India.

At the same time, the peace accord and the Indian military presence fuelled a backlash in southern Sri Lanka by ultranationalist Sinhalese against their government.



ment.

Asked if he thought India would leave Sri Lanka a better or worse place than it was when the first Indian soldiers landed on July 30, 1987, Gandhi said: "Better."

"The northeast will definitely be better, provided the replacement (force) comes in," he said. "The south, well, I won't comment on that. The Sri Lankan government should really look after that. That is much more worrying at the moment than the north, much more."

At least 11,000 people, including 1,000 Indian soldiers, have died in the Tamil insurrection since 1983. Another 4,000 people have been killed in two years of Sinhalese violence.

Gandhi, who turned 45 Sunday, looked relaxed and confident as he sat in the private cabin of the Indian Air Force Boeing 737 that had carried him and an entourage of government aides, members of his Congress Party and bodyguards on a two-day tour of south India.

The trip, which was a campaign tour in everything but name, had him traveling by helicopter across Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh states, making 13 speeches in 28 hours.

He repeatedly blasted his political opposition, especially the fractious alliance called the Janata Dal (National Front) whose president, Viswanath Pratap Singh, was once Gandhi's finance minister and later his defence minister.



Make my day: a challenging look from the very young

Where is the entertainer?

By Jane Ellison

THE FIRST guests arrived at three o'clock precisely. They walked straight past the balloons, the squeakers, the party hats. They ignored Captain Beaky's jaunty tones on the tape. They handed over their presents in a dutiful manner then looked critically round the room. At last, one of them spoke: "Where's the entertainer?" she said. There was an awkward silence. There was no entertainer. "I am the entertainer," I said, trying to make it sound exciting. There was another silence. Then the small child said: "Oh." Her friends sat down on the floor and regarded me with a challenging expression.

Giving a party for small children ought to be easy enough; certainly, easier than giving a party for your friends. After all, the guests are clean, tidily dressed and arrive on time in a flurry of Volvo estate cars; they do not overstay their welcome but depart equally promptly on the dot of five. They do not get drunk, demand to watch video nasties, or attempt to smoke illegal substances. They do not sneak off into bedrooms and get up to no good. On the contrary, they simply play party games and eat their tea.

But it is not quite as simple as that. The rigorously competitive ethos of the children's party today demands much more than mere "games." The row of unsmiling four and five-year-olds sitting on the floor are not waiting for me to launch into "musical chairs" or "hunt the thimble". No, they are waiting for Smarty Arty to perform for them; for Jolly Roger to do some tricks; for Mr. Chuckleberry to make them

laugh with collapsible scissors and disappearing mice.

Although the Smarty Arty entertainer is no longer fashionable among Harpers & Queen parents (according to a recent questionnaire, the upper classes are of the opinion that they make the children over-excited and encourage the expectation of expensive party bags), a Smarty Arty is inevitably to be found leaping, pyjamading and enthusiastically, at nearly every middle-class children's party. Your infants may attend.

Smarty Arties are rapidly booked up in advance, so it is not unusual to find mothers signing them up in January for a May party. The Smarty Arty will take over the whole party for the overworked, modern parent, providing something for the children to do between the hours of three and five, so that your role as host extends no further than furnishing a suitable tea. Smarty Arties are highly popular with those who feel unable to take on the dreadful burden of amusing the young. They are popular with the children, too, although their attraction naturally diminishes as the entertainer becomes an over-familiar phenomenon.

Mothers who have booked a Smarty Arty usually begin apologising for it at least two months before the party. "I'm afraid I've got an entertainer. I know it's a cop-out but frankly I just can't face organising ten five-year-olds. I'm hopeless at games, anyway." Mothers who do not provide an entertainer, will often have expensive recourse to alternative amusement, such as children's theatre, puppet shows, or a visit to the museum. Any-

thing is acceptable except the horror of trying to keep a dozen children occupied yourself.

And yet, what sort of parties did you go to as a child? Surely they were simple affairs, uncontaminated by a Smarty Arty jumping all over the place. There were banana sandwiches, jelly and eager, overjolly parents, enjoining you not to eat too much cake and organising games. However advanced the new generation of partygoers are today, surely you do not need to pay someone else to amuse them just for a couple of hours? Can you juggle? Do impressions? Stand on your head and sing the theme of Neighbours at the same time? This is the moment to deploy your talents to a young and captive audience. Unfortunately, your audience is considerably more sophisticated than you expected. They don't even look particularly excited to be here, do they?

What about a game to start with? Oranges and Lemons perhaps? The children regard you with blank incomprehension. "Don't you play this at school?" No, apparently they don't. A brief description of the principles of the game follows. Unfortunately, when you get to the bit about the candle and the chopper, the demonstration of the execution is over-realistic. One small child, more sensitive than the others, bursts into tears and says she doesn't want to play. The others also say they don't want to play. Three out of 12 remain who will have a go.

You sit down at the piano and strike a chord. They eye the piano curiously. This is a novelty.

They are more accustomed to tape recorder, electronic keyboard, synthesiser. Obliging the three traipse round the room and execute a nervous victim. The others look on in disdain. "I had a conjurer at my party," says Lucy, more loquacious and confident than most five-year-olds are supposed to be. The rest stare back.

Oranges and Lemons comes to a dismal end. What about musical statues? "Now when the music stops you must all stand as still as you can."

"Oh, we've played this at school," someone says without enthusiasm. "Anyway, it's wrong." Lucy has interrupted again. "You all have to sit on the floor."

A brief, spirited argument follows about whether one stands or sits. The children decide they will fall to the floor. After a few practice goes, those who are declared "out" respond by vigorous argument, refusing to accept the umpire's decision as final, and joining in the game just as before.

Before tea, there is a pause for the video. At last, there is a rush of real enthusiasm for Rupert and the Frog Song. For ten minutes, their eyes gleam with pleasure and they sit, silent and entranced before the television listening to Paul McCartney's warbling tenor. It is tempting to leave them there for the next hour but this is giving in to the packaged entertainment you have been resisting. Sternly, they are dragged away from the television and led out to tea.

Tea is in the garden, set out on a paper tablecloth. There are sausages, crisps, jelly and birthday cake. The children move

cautiously out onto the lawn and sit on the grass. "It's raining," says Lucy.

"No no, the sun will be out in a minute." There is mild interest in the jelly. We deal with the ceremonies of the cake. Then Lucy says she is cold. They all say they are cold and wander back inside. Time for another game to warm them up.

What about Follow My Leader? Nobody wants to play. What about some nursery rhymes? "We don't know them," says Lucy. But they do. After a few more chords on the piano, they all start to sing and dance, jumping up and down. The nursery rhymes finish and they run back out into the garden. Now is the moment to bring up the heavy guns with What Time Is It Mr. Wolf? A terrifying and thrilling game where a small child is seized and eaten on the wolfish cry of "Dinner Time!" The first brave volunteer is devoured. And then, suddenly, everyone joins in. At last, here is a game that everyone wants to play. Even the most sophisticated children cannot resist being caught and eaten. After a while, the children become wolves and catch and eat their hosts. Half an hour passes effortlessly until the Voices comes back again.

So it was not so hard after all. It is possible to turn a row of small, spoon-fed, passive infants into the vigorous party-goers we all used to be. Another ten minutes and they would all have been Following My Leader with gusto. What did the children think of it? I couldn't say.

— The Guardian.

'Cars used as weapons' on West German motorways

By Rolf Soderlind
Reuter

BONN — You can drive as fast as you like in the outside lane on a West German motorway and may feel like the king of the road — until you look in the rear mirror. Zooming in on you like a guided missile on its target comes a rival contender, bullying you to get out of the way.

"Cars are used as weapons," says Herbert Schnoor, interior minister of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. "The road has become an arena."

Pile-ups caused by aggressive driving on the last motorways in the West without general speed limits are leading to growing calls

for change. Environmentalists and many politicians are demanding a general speed limit on West Germany's 8,000 kilometre of Autobahns for both safety and environmental reasons.

"People get upset about murder," Schnoor, a Social Democrat, told the magazine Der Spiegel. "Why do we not get equally upset whenever someone is killed by a car?"

The speed limit advocates, who range politically from the left to the liberal centre, want drivers to be less aggressive and urge travellers to use public transport more.

But no challenge in West Germany's "asphalt lobby" is easy.

West Germans cherish their freedom to push their high-powered cars to the limit on the motorway network, which began taking shape in earnest under Adolf Hitler in the 1930s.

Surveys show most drivers are against a general speed limit. They are backed by the conservative government, the West German Automobile Industry Association and the Association of Automobile Drivers (ADAC).

Traffic ministers from the country's 11 states in June narrowly endorsed a statement recommending a general speed restriction on the autobahns on safety grounds.

But their recommendation was shot down at once by federal

Transport Minister Friedrich Zimmermann, who said West German motorways were among the safest in Europe.

Statistics appear to support Zimmermann.

West Germany had 8,213 traffic deaths last year, up three per cent from 1987, but only 714 happened on the autobahns.

There were 39 deaths per thousand traffic accidents on West German motorways in 1987, compared with 51 in Britain and 102 in France, where speed limits are 112 kph and 130 kph respectively.

The ADAC, the powerful automobile club which represents 30 per cent of West German drivers, has in the past successful-

ly fended off challenges to the rights of motorists to drive as fast as they please.

But it has recently come under fire for sponsoring opposition in West Berlin against a decision by the local government to slap a 100 kph speed limit on a stretch of motorway.

The 6.5-kilometre autobahn is a symbol of freedom to many drivers in West Berlin, an enclave surrounded by East Germany. They were infuriated when the speed limit was imposed by the ruling coalition of Social Democrats and ecological Greens in May.

Hundreds of drivers clogged the motorway in a protest. But the ADAC's political

attack on what it termed a "big brother" mentality of the authorities caused a backlash and prominent people such as novelist Guenther Grass withdrew from the organisation in protest.

"People join the ADAC because they want to benefit from its road rescue service, not because they want the ADAC to speak for them in politics," said Stefan, Sethe, a spokesman for the alternative West German Traffic Club (VCD).

Founded in Bonn in 1986 by environmentalists anxious to address a whole range of traffic problems, not just those of car owners, the VCD favours speed limits.

The club's claim that it is

attracting 2,000 new members a month gives the speed limit lobby renewed hope.

But the VCD has just 25,000 members compared with the Munich-based ADAC's 9.3 million members.

The speed-limit camp is weakened by disagreement on where to put the ceiling — anywhere between 100 kph and 130 kph.

The West German government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl has insisted on cleaner vehicle emissions rather than speed limits. It took the lead in imposing tough U.S. pollution norms on all new small cars sold in the European Community.

French President Francois Mit-

terrand, in an interview with five European newspapers in July, said Bonn's environmental policy was contradictory.

"The West Germans wanted (catalytic converters) to be fitted throughout the community," he said. "But West Germany is not prepared to take measures to limit the speed on its motorways, even though these speeds are an important factor in generating carbon gases."

In 1985, the government threw out a proposal to slap a 100 kmh speed limit on the autobahns, citing an official report which said such a restriction would not little to cut pollution blamed for killing West German forests.

Tiny Jersey and Guernsey battling problems of success

By Cotten Timberlake
The Associated Press

ST. HELIER, Jersey — The tiny Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, bustling offshore financial centres, are battling the problems of success.

With booming financial services industries and low taxes attracting both job-seekers and the wealthy, the islands have introduced draconian rules to cut immigration to a trickle.

Jersey allows just five new millionaire residents into the tax haven each year — a January 1987 law trimmed the number from 15 — and has what it claims are the world's only price controls on housing sales.

"The fear in all our minds is that we will become another Monte Carlo," says Anne Perchard, a Jersey dairy farmer.

Tax haven

The islands' growing number of high-quality financial institutions provide a place for individuals and companies to legally shelter their money from their own countries' taxes and to make more money on high-yielding investments.

Income and corporate tax rates are 20 per cent, and there are no sales, inheritance or capital gains taxes.

Attractions are the English language, political stability, British time zone, proximity to the conti-

nent and freedom from European Community (EC) regulations.

The islands generally follow British financial regulations, and an absence of bank-secrecy acts has helped them avoid the unsavory reputations of other tax havens.

The result has been an economic boom that has brought the big benefits of full employment and government budget surpluses. But there also have been immigration pressures, high-rise buildings, traffic jams and strained water supplies.

Native islanders, who aren't sure they like this transformation from rural idyll, clash with the newcomers who want credit for improving the islands' living standards.

"Jersey has to manage the success so you actually don't kill the golden goose," said Martin Dryden, managing director of Gartmore Fund Managers International Ltd.

Jersey, with an area of 101 square kilometres, has seen its population jump to 82,000 from 60,000 in 1961. The population of 65-square-kilometres Guernsey has gone to 60,000 from 54,000 in 1976.

Hopes or fears

There are hopes — or fears — or more prosperity.

The islands, which are dependencies of the British crown but not members of the European Community, are positioned to

turn into "offshore Europe" from "offshore Britain" when the 12-nation EC becomes a single market in 1992.

"We see it as being a position of opportunity," says Colin Powell, Jersey's leading civil servant.

The Channel Islands, which also include the smaller, still rural Alderney, Herm and Sark, are in the English Channel some 35 kilometres off France's Normandy coast.

Once part of the Duchy of Normandy, the islands retained their allegiance to the king of England where Normandy was freed of English rule in 1204.

Although some patois and other French influences survive, most people speak English, Grey

Stone Cottages have names like Hilssea View, and gardening is taken seriously.

Bailiffs appointed by Queen Elizabeth II preside over locally elected parliaments. There are no political parties.

During World War II, the Channel Islands were the only British soil occupied by the Nazis, for five long years.

The financial services industries here began in the '60s. Today, with hundreds of banks and insurance companies and more than 1,000 investment funds, they dominate the economies.

Jersey says its finance sector overtook tourism in 1986 and accounted for 40 per cent of gross national product (GNP) in 1987, compared with 20 per cent in

1975. The island's GNP doubled in the six years to 1987, while Guernsey's has grown an average of 8.5 per cent annually during the past three years.

To stem the population growth, Jersey now requires companies to obtain permission to increase staff. New companies need licenses.

Businesses object, but are having to adapt with increased use of computers and by seeking wealthier clients.

"We are selective," Powell says. "We would like to see continued profit growth of the institutions without people growth."

Only people born on Jersey and their children are allowed to

buy and lease property. In Guernsey, 90 per cent of the housing market is reserved for locals.

In Jersey, key professional workers can rent a home after living in employer-provided accommodation for 10 years. But that right expires next year. A right to buy after living on the island for 20 years expires in 2000.

Each year's five new millionaires have had to convince a housing committee that they "are of social and economic value to the islands," says committee chairman Hendric Vandervliet.

Seeking to protect young locals, the committee also reviews all home sales.

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JORDAN MARKET PAGE

Japan unseats U.S. as world's richest country

TOKYO (AP) — Japan became the world's richest nation on paper in 1987, surpassing the United States for the first time with \$43.7 trillion in national assets, an economic newspaper said Monday.

The value of Japan's assets in 1987 jumped sharply from \$38.3 trillion worth of assets in 1986, said the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper, quoting figures from the U.S. Federal Reserve Board and Japan's Economic Planning Agency. In 1985, Japan's assets were \$19.6 trillion, lagging \$11 trillion behind those of the U.S., the paper said.

According to U.S. Federal Reserve Board figures, the United States had some \$30.6 trillion in assets at the end of 1985, \$34.0 trillion worth in 1986 and \$36.2 trillion in 1987, the newspaper said.

The newspaper, Japan's leading economic daily, said the statistics at the end of 1987 were the latest available from the two countries.

National assets are the total

value of financial assets such as stocks and deposits and insurance, and actual assets such as production facilities, housing, land and inventories.

Officials of the Economic Planning Agency said the statistics from Japan and the United States were issued separately toward the end of last year, but the agency did not make any specific comparison.

Contributing to the rise in Japan's assets were soaring stock and land prices, coupled with a nominal increase in the overall national assets due to the Japanese currency's appreciation against the U.S. dollar, the report said.

On a yen basis, Japan's national assets rose by 17.7 per cent in 1987 over the previous year,

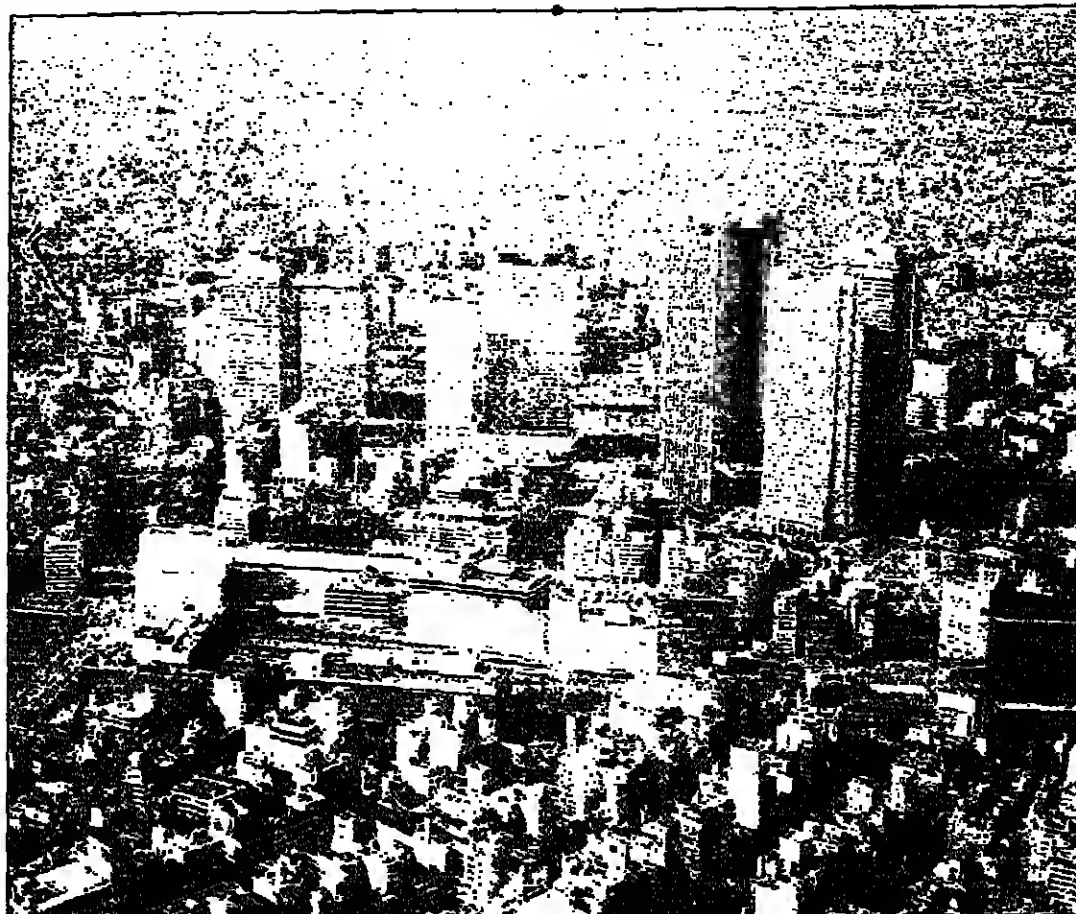
mainly because of rises in stock and land prices, while the yen's value against the U.S. dollar rose 54.5 per cent in 1987.

The yen rose from about 160 yen to the dollar to about 122 yen from end of 1986 to the end of 1987, the report said.

It said financial assets accounted for 53 per cent of Japan's total national assets, while the value of land made up 30.6 per cent.

Masaru Yoshitomi, chief of the Economic Planning Agency's Economic Research Institute, told the Nihon Keizai Shimbun that the scale of Japan's national assets "show Japan has increased its position not only in industrial competitiveness, but also in a very important part of the national power of financing."

The government reported last year Japan had record net overseas assets of \$240.7 trillion in 1987, making it the world's largest creditor nation for the third year in a row.



The Tokyo mystique

20 new firms join Sahab Industrial City

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 20 firms have been established at the Sahab Industrial City during the first half of 1989, according to a spokesman for the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

He said that the total amount of investment in these industries was approximately JD 4 million, creating more than 300 new jobs.

Among investors in the new industries, he said, are businessmen from Iraq.

These industries, the spokesman added, have been established to produce foodstuffs, plastic and rubber items, leather, chemicals, textiles, furniture, engine ring products and equipment used in the construction industry.

These industries have been set up in the new areas added to the first phase of the Sahab Industrial City which now has more than 15 industries, the spokesman added.

Early last February, the JIEC announced that a new industrial city in Irbid will be established in view of the numerous requests to establish industries and construct factories.

The JIEC spokesman said the corporation received applications to set up 70 new industrial projects in Jordan over the past 11 months.

Ministry sets new tissue paper prices

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has issued new instructions specifying prices of tissue paper.

A spokesman said that due to the economic changes which occurred, mainly in the value of the dinar, and which adversely affected the cost for the manufacturers, a technical committee was formed and reviewed the tissue paper industry with the view to justify adjust prices.

As a result, the committee recommended raising the prices of tissue paper by 20 per cent and diapers by approximately 10 per cent.

According to Ministry of Supply instructions, all tissue paper and diapers produced and stocked in the warehouses of the manufacturers prior to the new measures, are to be sold to the Civil Consumer Corporation and Military Consumer Corporation at the old prices.

The two institutions were exempt from the following new prices in the future as their dealings were subject to separate contracts with the producers.

The new prices of tissue paper

- (1) A packet of two-ply, 100 tissues for 220 fils;
- (2) A packet of two-ply, 150 tissues for 400 fils;
- (3) A packet of two-ply, 200 tissues for 540 fils;
- (4) A packet of two-ply, 300 tissues for 800 fils;
- (5) Toilet roll of Grade A, weighing 105 grammes for 130 fils a piece;
- (6) Toilet roll of Grade B, weighing 90 grammes for 155 fils a piece;
- (7) Small 10-tissue pocket-pack three-ply for 50 fils;
- (8) Small diapers each weighing 45 grammes (48 pieces) for JD 3,800;
- (9) Medium diapers each weighing 62 grammes (48 pieces) for JD 4,800;
- (10) Large diapers each weighing 79 grammes (48 pieces) for JD 5,700;
- (11) Diapers each weighing 89 grammes (48 pieces) for JD 5,950;
- (12) Baby diapers each weighing 24 grammes (30 pieces) for JD 1,300;
- (13) Lady diapers each weighing 13 grammes (10 pieces) for 320 fils.

Red light signal flashes in S. Korea

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo warned Monday that South Korea's export-led economy faced "a red light signal" with the potential for a drastic fall in the export growth rate.

In a weekly radio address entitled "let's turn our eyes to exports again," Roh said that "it is imperative to revitalize our exports in order to revive the resilience of our economic growth."

He blamed sluggish exports on the Korean won currency's appreciation against the U.S. dollar, steep wage hikes and serious labour-management disputes in recent years.

"In our economy, exports have played the role of a diesel locomotive pulling a long train," he said.

Korea has recorded faster growth than almost any other developing country in recent years.

To promote exports and investment, the president said the government is stabilising the currency exchange rates and taking other steps.

Saying the government alone could not solve economic problems, Roh also called on workers and employers to do their part.

He urged workers to refrain from seeking excessive wage in-



Roh Tae-Woo

creases and take the lead in renewing the competitiveness of Korean exports by improving the quality of their products. He also exhorted employers to build labour-management relations based on trust.

Roh said Korean exports grew only 5.8 per cent between January and July over the same period last year, compared with an annual average growth rate of 30.8 per cent during the 27 years from 1962 to 1988.

The trade and industry ministry earlier said Korea's trade surplus in the first seven months of this year was only \$166 million, down sharply from \$3.79 billion one year ago.

Roh noted that wage hikes averaged 62 per cent in South Korea between 1987 and 1988. Mainly under U.S. pressure, the Korean won rose 15.8 per cent against the dollar in 1988 and about 2.5 per cent so far this year.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Egypt leases luxury hotel to Wena

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has agreed to lease a luxury hotel in the ancient city of Luxor to a British company in its latest move to privatise many of its state-run hotels, the British company said Monday. British hotel chain Wena Hotels said in a press release it had signed a 20-year lease for the Luxor Hotel with the state-owned Egyptian Hotels Company. The hotel, built at the turn of the century at the side of Luxor Temple, will be renovated and reopened in October 1989 as the Luxor Wena Hotel. Egypt is leasing many state-run hotels to foreign companies as part of an overall move to cut back its big public sector. It relies heavily on tourism as a major source of foreign exchange earnings.

Poles distrust communist banks

BONN (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has urged West German banks to open branches in Poland, saying they would attract savings which Poles keep under their mattresses because they do not trust communist-run state banks. "The Polish people have hoarded \$3 to \$5 billion 'under the mattress' which is not used in the economy," he told the West German newspaper Bild. "No-one will entrust this good money to a communist bank, but they would entrust it to a Western bank. In short, we could pay for the necessary reforms with this money, our money," he said in an interview released ahead of publication Tuesday. Poland would offer West German banks offices, safes and computer links with their head offices, Walesa added. He repeated his call for the West to grant Poland debt relief, saying foreign debts were strangling the economy. "We will certainly repay them, but under another economic system," he said.

Strike disrupts Swedish rail traffic

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Railway traffic ground to a standstill in most of Sweden as hundreds of train drivers launched a wildcat strike Monday over pay and plans to raise their retirement age, National Radio reported. Railway officials of the state-owned Statens Järnvägar said 10-20 per cent of the nationwide rail network was kept in operation. Commuter traffic in major cities also was disrupted, the radio said. The workers did not say how long the strike would last. A plan by Statens Järnvägar to raise the mandatory retirement age from 63 to 65 was accepted by the train workers' union, but triggered a wave of discontent among members. A petition signed by 2,000 workers also protested against removing the option of retiring at age 60. The workers also objected to a raise of the top salary from 11,200 kronor (\$1,700) a month to 13,000 kronor (\$1,970).

Burma fails to stop rice price spiral

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Burma's military government has failed to stop spiralling rice prices and is appealing to the people for help, the state radio has reported. Brigadier General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the Rangoon Division of the Ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, said that despite efforts to ease problems of rice distribution, "prices continued to soar." Rice is the staple diet for Burma's nearly 40 million people. Last year, rising rice prices, discontent with the political leadership and other factors led to a mass uprising for democracy. Myo Nyunt said that although an "open door" economic policy was now being followed, "the prices of paddy and rice have been spiraling." Though the state was distributing 20,000 sacks of rice a day to people in Rangoon at government subsidised prices, it was unable to provide for all of the capital's 4.3 million people, Myo Nyunt said. He said the government could only distribute cheap rice to 3.8 million people and even then the free market price continued to rise.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	Buy	Sell	French franc	90.4	91.3
U.S. dollar	597.9	603.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	417.6	421.8
Pound Sterling	935.1	944.5	Dutch guilder	270.4	273.1
Deutschemark	304.9	307.9	Swedish crown	90.1	91.0
Swiss franc	353.6	357.1	Italian lira (for 100)	42.5	42.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	145.7	147.2

BAT Industries hikes profits, shuns bid

LONDON (R) — Britain's BAT Industries Monday posted a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the first half of the year and urged shareholders to reject a takeover bid by financier Sir James Goldsmith. The giant tobacco-based conglomerate, in a defence document against the takeover attempt, said Goldsmith and his partners in the offer, Jacob Rothschild of Britain and Kerry Packer of Australia, were out to get richer at the expense of BAT shareholders. BAT reported pre-tax profits of £811 million (\$1.27 billion) in the first six months of 1989, up from £677 million (\$1.06 billion) in the same period last year. Shares in the conglomerate, whose holdings include Brown and Williamson Tobacco in the United States, Benson and Hedges Tobacco in Britain and Los Angeles-based insurance firm Farmers Group Inc, rose 11 pence (17 cents) to £8.24 (\$12.94) each on the news.

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

starts registration for the academic year 1989-1990.
The Conservatory provides systematic training in playing one or more of the following instruments:
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Registration takes place at the National Music Conservatory, Jabal Amman, behind the Kuwaiti Embassy, Tel. 687822.
Classes will start on Saturday, Sept. 2, 1989.

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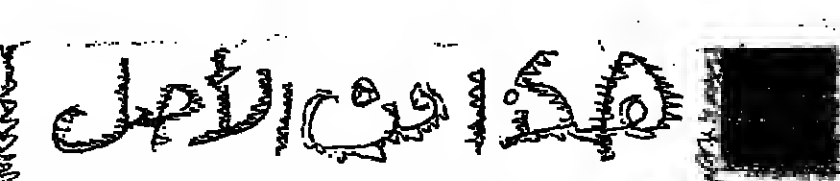
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(Above) A diver emerges from the River Thames during a search in the wreckage of the pleasure cruiser Marchioness which sank Sunday after being rammed by a sand barge. (Left) A blanket-wrapped survivor from the Marchioness.

27 known dead in Thames boat disaster

LONDON (R) — Divers searched the wreck of a Thames pleasure cruiser for more bodies Monday and police said they still feared up to 60 party revellers drowned when a dredger sank the vessel.

A body recovered from the river about 24 hours after the dredger ploughed into the cruiser in the heart of London brought the number of known dead to 27. But police said they believed many more young people could be trapped inside the hull of the pleasure boat Marchioness, lying in shallow water after being salvaged from the middle of the river.

Divers concentrated on two flooded sections close to the boat's dance floor where many bodies were found Sunday.

Police estimate that up to 150 people may have been on the 90-ton Marchioness for a night birthday party cruise when it sank. But its owners believe only 110 were on board.

The number of known survivors rose to 84 Monday. Police said three had gone home after reaching the riverbank near

Southwark bridge and three others were among those taken to hospital.

Other revellers, most of them in their 20s, could have been swept away by the fast-flowing tide or trapped in the superstructure when the 1,475-ton dredger Bowbelle struck.

The blue and white vessel was upright and appeared largely intact, despite the crushing blow that sent it to the bottom of the river within a minute.

"It would appear that what happened was that the boat didn't split in two but simply rolled over," salvage worker Dick Sothen told Sky Channel News as he surveyed the Marchioness upright on the Thames mud.

"Once it rolled over, they (the passengers) would have lost all orientation," he added.

The Bowbelle's captain and second mate, arrested Sunday and questioned after tests for alcohol, were released in the evening. Police would not say whether there would be any action against them.

Survivors said the Marchioness was spun round by the force of

the initial impact. The dredger then ran over the top of the boat, ripping off the upper deck.

"It's like a tank running over a mini," said Ken Dwan, director of Tidal Cruises which owned the pleasure boat.

Police Commander John Purnell said late Sunday: "I would like to think we have found most of the bodies but we do not know how many could be found in the river over the next week or so."

Police were examining tape-recorded radio messages to river navigators for clues into the cause of the tragedy.

The Independent, a London daily, reported there was apparently a disagreement between the captains of the Marchioness and the dredger over which vessel should pass first under the bridge's central span.

The newspaper also quoted a veteran boatman as saying the Bowbelle rammed another Thames passenger boat five years ago and nearly sank it. The Thames is one of the world's busiest commercial rivers, used by more than 32,000 vessels each year.

Strikes plague Poland

WARSAW (Agencies) — Solidarity officials said Monday a strike wave across Poland was reeling out of control even though the free trade union is on the verge of breaking the Communist Party's hold on power.

Coal miners and power and transport workers staged protests Monday to press wage claims to compensate for huge food price increases imposed by the communist authorities Aug. 1.

The Communist Party expressed concern Sunday, saying the situation had "sharpened dangerously." But the strikes are also ringing alarm bells for Solidarity, the independent union created after national strikes in 1980.

Solidarity adviser Tadeusz Mazowiecki has been designated the next prime minister, but he and union chairman Lech Walesa are uncertain of controlling the unrest.

Solidarity officials say young radicals leading pit strikes in the southwestern region of Katowice, refuse to listen to their appeals to

go back to work and have sent envoys to other mines to try and persuade more men to down tools.

"We are afraid the strikes may spread, although the idea is supported by only a small number of radical miners," Adam Kowalczyk, a Solidarity leader in Jastrzebie, told Reuters.

"The regional Solidarity committee takes no responsibility for the strikes, which are pointless and unnecessary in the current political and economic situation," he said.

Strikes were underway Monday at the Morciniek and Marcel pits in the Katowice region. Solidarity officials feared a stoppage at the nearby Grodziec mine. Power workers who supply fuel to the Katowice steelworks also

stopped work.

Workers who feed brown coal to Poland's biggest electric power station at Belchatow, about 150 kilometres southwest of Warsaw, downed tools for one hour. Transport workers protested in Kielce, a city south of Warsaw.

"Citizens are getting over more tired and bitter over the prolonged state of economic and political instability," the Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee said in a resolution.

The unrest flared after the Communist authorities imposed price rises of up to 500 zlotys in some areas by lifting subsidies on most types of food. Poles complain about shortages and queues. Inflation is close to 200 per cent.

Mazowiecki plans some austerity measures to try to solve the pressing economic problems, but he risks alienating the workers who have long been Solidarity's power base.

The prospect of angering workers in Silesia, the heart of the coal strikes, is especially alarming.

The area produces most of Poland's coal, its main source of foreign currency needed to pay its \$39-billion debt, and is a traditional union stronghold.

Mazowiecki told Solidarity's newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza Monday that the living standards of the poor would be defended but sacrifices were required.

"If we have to make a choice between efficiency and the interests which the union upholds, then we will refer to public opinion. But if sacrifices are necessary, then people must accept them," Mazowiecki said.

"It will be very important to hold people back while Solidarity tries to introduce an economic reform programme which will have considerable privatisations and hardships for the majority of the Polish population," said George Kolankiewicz, a Polish specialist at Britain's University of Essex.



Savimbi ready for permanent ceasefire

RABAT (AP) — UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi has said he is ready to sign a permanent ceasefire with the Angolan government, adding that he was "optimistic" about the peace process.

Savimbi, at a news conference Sunday after meeting Moroccan King Hassan II, said he sent instructions to rebel negotiators in Kinshasa, Zaire, to proceed with signing of a permanent ceasefire agreement.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Savimbi called a short-lived truce, sealed with a handshake June 22 at a summit of African leaders in Gbadolite, Zaire.

Both sides have since accused the other of truce violations which have become more numerous in recent weeks as sporadic talks peace negotiations continued.

On Sunday, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported that a 13-man government negotiating team had returned to Luanda from Zaire on Friday after waiting two days for the rebels to appear.

The negotiating team representing the (UNITA) National Union for the Total Independence of Angola arrived later Friday.

Despite the recent reports of large-scale clashes, Savimbi told reporters he was optimistic a permanent ceasefire could be signed ending the civil war.

Savimbi said he was "open to all concessions," which he defined as "wanting to participate in the peace process."

"But the process is complicated, complex because the war lasted 14 years and left 200,000 dead and 1.5 million displaced. The war is too hard," Savimbi said.

United Nations representatives in Luanda estimate the war has displaced about 675,000 people and no independent estimates exist on the number of people killed in the conflict.

Africa takes tough stance on apartheid negotiations

HARARE (R) — African leaders and liberation movements expressed doubts Monday about the South African government's intentions on ending apartheid and called for a tough and cautious attitude in any negotiations.

Opening speakers at a meeting in Harare of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) ad-hoc committee on southern Africa took a hard line in the debate on when and on what terms there should be negotiations with South Africa's white government.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said the people of South Africa were ready to talk directly to the government. "They and the people of free Africa must, however, be convinced that the regime is serious about wanting to negotiate," he added.

World pressure for a negotiated solution has grown following pledges by South African leaders to dismantle apartheid.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on his first foreign mission as OAU chairman, said Africa rejected any attempts by Pretoria to deceive the world about ending apartheid.

"The regime must remain isolated and rejected for as long as it remains intransigent," he said. Mubarak repeated OAU demands for an end to the state of emergency in South Africa, for

the release of political prisoners and the lifting of a ban on political groups.

These are pre-conditions demanded by the African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla movement fighting white rule in South Africa, for it to engage in negotiations.

But one problem hindering the OAU in its search for a common position on negotiations is a continuing dispute between the Lusaka-based ANC, the main South African liberation movement, and the smaller Tanzania-based Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC).

PAC President Zephaniah Mothopeng told the meeting there could be no negotiations with the government at this stage.

He attacked what he called interference by international powers. Both the United States and the Soviet Union have said they favour a negotiated solution in South Africa.

"Please do not dictate to us how we should conduct our struggle, please do not try to twist our arm," Mothopeng said.

"Unbanning" rally

Meanwhile in South Africa members of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and seven other banned anti-apartheid groups unfurled their illegal banners at St.

George's Cathedral and declared they would operate openly again.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu led a multi-racial congregation of 2,500 in chanting, "no to apartheid, no to injustice, no to oppression and no to racism," at the church service that replaced a rally police had banned at the mixed-race university of the Western Cape.

Declarations of "unbanning," which were made in Johannesburg, are part of a national defiance campaign. They were made Sunday to coincide with the sixth anniversary of the UDF's 700-group anti-apartheid coalition. The protests also are a challenge the government in the weeks before the Sept. 6 elections, which exclude the black majority.

Organisers in Cape Town obtained a last-minute supreme court injunction barring police from interfering with cathedral rally.

But a similar rally in Johannesburg, also banned, was thwarted when police blocked the main entrances to the all-white university of the Witwatersrand. About 200 protesters slipped through and held a rally addressed by spokesmen who refused to identify themselves but declared the UDF and five affiliate organisations "unbanned."

Deng personality cult reaches new heights

By Guy Dinmore
Reuters

PEKING — The personality cult surrounding China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping reached a new pitch Monday with all major official newspapers publishing glowing tributes on the eve of his 85th birthday.

Foreign diplomats said the articles were reminiscent — although on a much smaller scale — of the god-like status of Mao Tse-tung in his declining years and could reflect a continuing power struggle in the Chinese leadership.

Newspapers announced the publication of a new volume of Deng's speeches and articles written between 1938 and 1965.

"This selection still has a guiding significance today," headlined the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily above a front-page picture of Deng gesturing in an armchair.

The praise seemed intended to place Deng in the pantheon of Communist greats.

During his revolutionary career spanning seven decades, the People's Daily said, Deng had combined the ideas of Karl Marx and Lenin with China's actual situation and developed Mao's

theories.

Deng's last public appearance was June 9 when amid rumours he was dead or dying, he appeared on state television leading a meeting of military commanders five days after the army crushed the student-led democracy movement in Tiananmen Square.

Diplomats believe Deng is following his annual custom of spending the hot summer months in the coastal town of Beidaihe.

The front-page picture, published in all major newspapers, was reportedly taken July 2. They did not say where.

People's Daily also splashed three pictures of Deng as a younger man, two in uniform in the 1930s or 40s during China's war of resistance against Japan's occupying army.

"They are building up the personality cult. It's a bit of a mystery why as Deng was always against this," a Western diplomat commented.

"It could indicate he is seriously ill and that this is part of the next round of the power struggle," he added.

Deng's plans to hand over power peacefully to a younger generation of leaders who would

continue his ambitious programme of economic reforms first came unstuck in the winter of 1986 when students demonstrated for democratic freedoms.

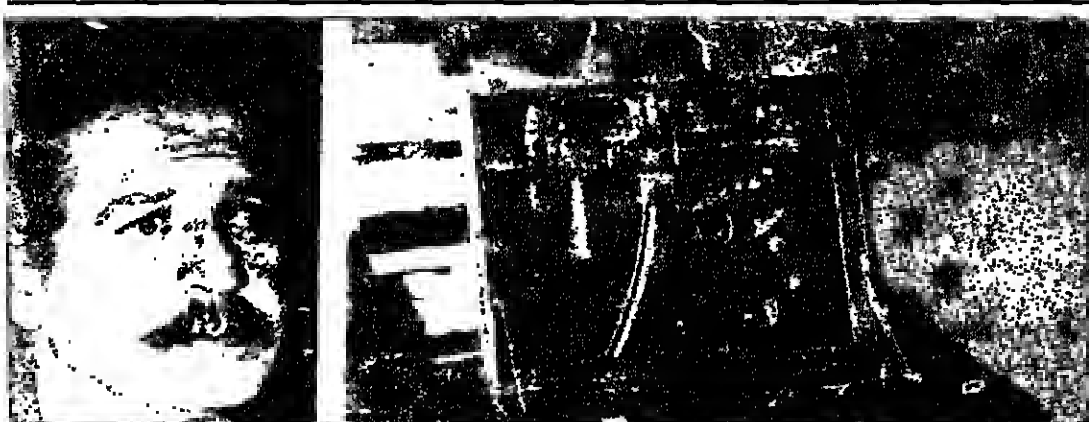
Party hardliners succeeded in ousting reformist leader and Deng's protégé Hu Yaobang in January, 1987. Hu's successor Zhao Ziyang met the same fate last June after another wave of student protests which drew mass popular support.

Diplomats said the power struggle could be concentrating on who would succeed Deng as chairman of the party's powerful central military commission, his remaining post which control the armed forces.

Zhao's successor as party leader, Jiang Zemin, should in theory get the job, diplomats said, but it seemed that hardline President Yang Shangkun, who has powerful military connections through his family, has aspirations to the post.

"When Deng dies Yang might try to grasp that," the Western diplomat commented.

Officially sponsored adulation of Deng has intensified since the June military crackdown which cost hundreds, possibly thousands of lives.



Colombian presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan who was assassinated Friday. On right is a briefcase machine gun seized by Bogota police last week. The weapon can be fired from inside the briefcase by squeezing a trigger on the case's handle.

Colombia on anti-drug push

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian troops and police, using new powers to fight the country's cocaine traffickers, have raided and occupied properties owned by drug leaders, the Defence Ministry said Sunday.

A ministry statement said that in an operation which began Friday, soldiers raided the main rural estate of reputed Medellin drug cartel chief Pablo Escobar, farms belonging to the Ochoa trafficking family and around the city of Medellin and farms belonging to "the Mexican" Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, near Bogota.

Defence Ministry spokesman Col. Eduardo Arevalo, asked whether the properties raided had been confiscated under one of the emergency decrees announced Friday by President Virgilio Barco, said "Yes."

Barco, responding to the assassination of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan suspected

drug-backed gunmen at an outdoor political rally Friday night, declared that security forces could hold suspects far up to seven days, seize their assets and extradite them if they were wanted abroad.

The raid at Escobar's Hacienda Napoles, about three hours' drive from Medellin, garnered the greatest number of goods, according to the ministry. It listed the seizure of six vehicles, four boats, one bulldozer, a satellite dish, 3,000 gallons of petrol, 2,000 head of cattle and 100 pigs.

It said the estate had been occupied by troops and 52 people were being held there. The concrete entrance to the vast estate was also pictured as having a small mounted airplane, reputed to have flown Escobar's first load of cocaine.

The ministry did not say how the properties were taken over or whether there had been any re-

sistance to the raids and occupation.

In the three-day operation in four of the country's 22 states, troops and police raided 505 properties and detained 10,450 people, the ministry stated. The security forces also seized 157 vehicles, 622 weapons and four tonnes of coca paste.

"These results represent the effort of the armed forces... to achieve the government's aim at eliminating the phenomenon of drug trafficking which has caused such harm in the country," the statement signed by Defence Minister Oscar Botero said.

The Medellin Cartel and a rival one from the city of Cali are believed by U.S. officials to control up to 80 per cent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States.

No Cartel leaders have been arrested since early 1987, contributing to the public impression that they act with impunity.

The last flyby: Voyager II closes in on far away Neptune

PASADENA, California (AP) — Voyager II flies past Neptune this week for its dazzling last picture show — the final photo opportunity during the spacecraft's four-planet, seven-billion-kilometre journey.

"We're getting close, everything is working extremely well and we're all excited," said Norm Haynes, Voyager project manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"The surf is definitely up here at JPL," joked Franklin O'Donnell, a spokesman for the lab where about 170 scientists from

around the world are assembling for the critical period.

Coincidentally, Sunday was the 12th anniversary of Voyager II's launch from Florida Aug. 20, 1977.

The researchers will share ultimate exhilaration as front-row observers for humanity's first close-up look at the solar system's fourth-largest planet, a blue-green ball nearly four times Earth's diameter.

But their excitement is tinged with nostalgia because Voyager's Neptune encounter will be the last planetary flyby for a U.S. spacecraft. Future probes will

orbit their target planets: Magellan at Venus, Galileo at Jupiter and the Mars Observer.

And with no one planning a mission to Pluto, Neptune is the last unexplored planet that will be visited by a spacecraft from Earth in the foreseeable future.

"It's almost like being on a ship of Discovery like Marco Polo, Magellan and Columbus," said Jurrie van der Woude, a JPL spokesman. "For most of us, this is the last picture show, the last foreign shores we visit in the solar system."

Only a few days and a few million kilometres remain until 0359 GMT Friday, when Voyager

makes its closest approach to Neptune by skirting 4,830 kilometres above the planet's cloudtops — much closer than its encounters with Jupiter in 1979, Saturn in 1981 and Uranus in 1986.

As of 9 a.m. local time (1600 GMT) Monday, Voyager II will be 4.414 billion kilometres from Earth and 5.167 billion kilometres from Neptune, approaching the planet at 60,089 kilometres per hour. Since it was launched in 1977, Voyager II has travelled a curving path totalling 7.08 billion kilometres.

With a final course correction

Monday morning, NASA engineers will put Voyager II on its precise trajectory for the Neptune flyby.

Sending Voyager to Neptune was like "sinking a 2,260-mile (3,640 kilometre) golf putt, assuming the golfer can make a few illegal fine adjustments while the ball is rolling across this incredibly long green," says "the Voyager Neptune Travel Guide" by mission planning manager Charles Kohlhaase and his staff.

Up to 8,000 photographs from Voyager's two television cameras and discoveries by 10 other science experiments will pour in so quickly that NASA will conduct

daily news conferences starting Monday and continuing through Aug. 29.

By late last week, Voyager had already revealed some of Neptune's secrets, including:

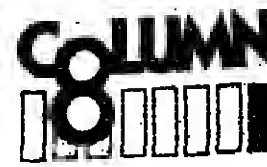
— "Four previously unknown moons, in addition to Nereid and backward-rotating Triton, which were discovered from Earth. Voyager is likely to discover more moons."

— Clouds and other weather features, including 4,345-kilometre wide bands similar to jet streams on Earth, and a 13,035-by-6,600-kilometre dark spot, probably a huge storm like Jupiter's great red spot.

— Two partial rings of debris, called ring arcs, that are much different from the complete rings that encircle Saturn and Uranus. Scientists say there may be 50 or more ring arcs orbiting Neptune.

— A magnetic field surrounding Neptune, suggesting the planet also may have auroras like Earth's northern lights and may be enveloped by orbiting radiation belts similar to Earth's Van Allen belts.

The Neptune encounter is the climax of the \$665-million, twin-spacecraft Voyager mission, which also saw Voyager explore Jupiter in 1979 and Saturn in 1980.



Faithful even in death

MANILA (AP) — Evangeline Guico said her marriage vows Sunday, then sprinkled holy water over her fiancé as he lay in a casket. Miss Guico, 21, who is two months pregnant, was to have wed 21-year-old Marlon Manalac on Sept. 26 after a three-year courtship. But on Tuesday, Manalac was found shot to death by an unknown assailant in a Manila suburb. Manalac's father, Police Major Alfonso Manalac, decided to go ahead with the unusual ceremony, which took place at the family residence. A minister of the Aglipayan church, a Philippine denomination that broke with Roman Catholicism, agreed to officiate after the Roman Catholic church refused to sanction the "marriage." Marlon "loves Vangie very much, and we want to pursue his promise wherever he may be right now," Alfonso Manalac told reporters.

2 months at sea with fish, water

ALAMEDA, California (AP) — A Florida couple who said their pleasure boat was sunk by whales off Costa Rica survived 66 days at sea by eating raw fish and drinking purified water, a U.S. coast guard spokesman said Sunday. William Butler, 60, and Simone Butler, 52, of Miami, were "weak but recovering" at hospital in Golfito, Costa Rica, after being rescued by a Costa Rican coast guard ship Saturday afternoon, said U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Egbert Vallecillo. William Butler told Coast Guard officials their 12-metre pleasure boat was attacked and sunk by "several" whales on June 15 about 1,900 kilometres southwest of Costa Rica. "They were large, according to Mr. Butler," Vallecillo said. "But he didn't know how many whales." As the boat was sinking, the couple grabbed fishing rods and a salt-water purifier and got into a rubber lifeboat, where they remained for the next two months, Vallecillo said.

China's leaders get a lift

PEKING (R) — China frail and ageing leaders will have no problems viewing national day celebrations from the monumental Gate of Heavenly Peace in October — foreign engineers are installing two lifts to the top. Working day and night to meet a mid-September deadline, contractors said they have engaged idle martial law troops to help construction. The giant Vermilion Gate guards the southern entrance to the imperial Forbidden City and overlooks Tiananmen Square where troops and tanks crushed student-led demonstrations for democracy in June. It was from the gate's upper gallery that Mao Tse-tung proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic on Oct. 1, 1949.

Right answers for 'wrong' numbers

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A plague of crossed lines is sweeping the Brazilian capital Brasilia, but some of the country's top people are fighting back with humour. The weekly magazine Veja reported that a leading candidate in November's presidential election Fernando Collor de Mello is so used to unwelcome calls on his private line, he answers: "Federal police, can I help you?" General Ivan de Souza Mendes, head of the military intelligence service SNI, answers all callers on his secret line: "Sao Joao Greengrocer, can I help you?" The problem of having only 316,000 lines for 1.8 million residents has a sinister side.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	16	21	61° 70°
ATHENS	18	26	64° 79°
BAHRAIN	30	36	86° 97°
BANGKOK	27	34	81° 93°
BUENOS AIRES	07	14	45° 57°
CAIRO	24	32	75° 90°
CHICAGO	20	28	68° 82°
COPENHAGEN	18	25	64° 77°
FRANKFURT	15	20	59° 68°
GENEVA	14	21	57° 70°
HONG KONG	25	32	77° 90°
ISTANBUL	18	26	64° 79°
LONDON	17	23	63° 73°
LOS ANGELES	17	23	63° 73°
MADRID	18	24	64° 75°
MEXICO	22	28	72° 82°
MOSCOW	18	24	64° 75°
NEW DELHI	26	30	79° 86°
NEW YORK	19	26	66° 79°
PARIS	19	26	66° 79°
ROME	20	28	68° 82°
SYDNEY	08	17	46° 63°
TOKYO	18	23	64° 73°
VIENNA	19	26	66° 79°

